

Hafa Adai!

NMC looks into testing over 1,000 students. **PAGE 2**

Monday is start of submission of nominating petitions, candidacies. **PAGE 5**

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Skymark once more extends flight suspension to Sept. 30

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Skymark Airlines Inc. has again extended the suspension of all flight operations between Japan and Saipan until Sept. 30 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

No surprise there, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kim-berlyn King-Hinds, who said yesterday that this decision was to be expected given the circumstances.

Skymark announced over the weekend that the decision to extend the suspension of the

Narita-Saipan flights was in response to decreased travel demand due to the global coronavirus outbreak.

Last April, Skymark announced that the suspension of the Narita-Saipan flights, that started last March 26, would be extended until May 31,

See SKYMARK on Page 4

US Labor: Pacific Rim suit related to consent judgment

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

U.S. Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday that the lawsuit filed by Pacific Rim Land Development LLC against Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC is related to the court's consent judgment entered last year in the U.S. Labor's case against IPI.

Scalia, through counsel Charles C. Song of the Office of the Solicitor, requested the court that any ruling the court enters in the Pacific Rim matter ensures IPI is able to comply with the court's April 11, 2019, injunction requiring IPI to comply with the Fair Labor

See LABOR on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

► **CCC chair: Unpaid IPI workers is IPI's problem, not court's. PAGE 2**



IMPROVED 'PALA-PALA'
The Rotary Club of Saipan repaints another pavilion at the Sugar Dock Beach in Susupe. **KRIZEL TUAZON**

Jerry Facey, 81



By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Loyal. Strong. Reliable. That's how Brad Ruzsala and close friends will remember the late Jerry Facey, who recently passed away at 81. Facey is survived by his wife Irene, and children John Paul, Jerene and Jeanette.

The cause of his death was not confirmed as of press time yesterday, but independent sources state that Facey has been in the hospital since last

See JERRY on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 29, 2020

| GUAM | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|--------|-----|-------|
| Positive | 248 | 5 | 253 |
| Recovered | 179 | 0 | 179 |
| Active | 64 | 5 | 69 |
| Deaths | 6* | 0 | 6* |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | 12,969 | | |

| SAIPAN | OLD | NEW | TOTAL |
|-------------------------------------|---------|-----|-------|
| Positive | 30 | 0 | 30 |
| Active | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Deaths | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| Cumulative Number of Persons Tested | 8,217** | | |

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

CDC: NMI among lowest in US COVID-19 infections

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

The CNMI is among the lowest in terms of the infectious

spread of COVID-19 in the United States.

COVID-19 Task Force chair Warren Villagomez announced this during a House

of Representatives meeting yesterday, citing an email he received from the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-

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RELATED NEWS

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BUSINESS

Guang Zhou Restaurant is having a promotion where their bestsellers can be had for only \$4.

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NATION

President Donald Trump denies knowing that Russia offered bounties to Taliban militants.

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WORLD

The world surpassed two milestones: 500,000 confirmed deaths, 10 million cases.

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Local

CCC chair: Unpaid IPI workers is IPI's problem, not court's

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Casino Commission board chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero said Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC just needs to follow and comply with federal court orders and pay their workers.

During Thursday's CCC board meeting, Deleon Guerrero said the successive protest by IPI workers due to non-payment is not the problem of the U.S. District Court for the NMI, but IPI's.

"Every day you have [workers] working without pay is another day of violation," De-

leon Guerrero told IPI project resident director Jing Zhou.

Zhou said IPI understands and that's why the company is working on paying the workers.

The chairman expressed his view about the IPI workers' protest last week outside the District Court when Zhou told CCC that the workers are back at the construction site of IPI's resort/casino project and are working even though they have not received their two paychecks. He personally assured that IPI

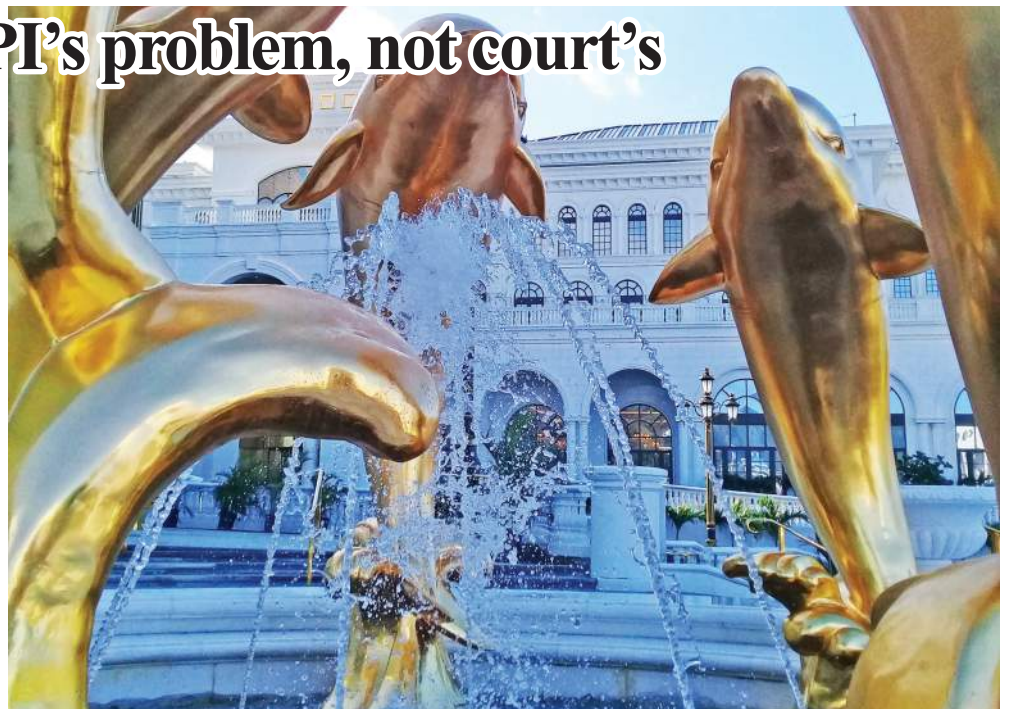
is working to process these workers' paychecks.

Deleon Guerrero asked Zhou how they are going to complete the project when their workers are protesting at the District Court, rather than doing construction work because they have not been paid.

"This is very disturbing to know that people continue to work and yet they continue not getting paid. Particularly if they lost insurance. If there is an accident who is [going] to help them?" Deleon Guerrero asked.



Deleon Guerrero



File photo shows the fountain located in front of the Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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At the same CCC meeting, IPI Treasury director Frances Mafnas and IPI human resources director Redie Dela Cruz disclosed that IPI has just hired a new payroll service provider in Guam to address the payroll problem with IPI employees.

Mafnas said that IPI's payroll account at the Bank of Saipan in the amount of \$800,000 was not just frozen but was actually being closed as a result of the District Court's writ of execution.

Deleon Guerrero pointed out that the latest amendment to the casino license agree-

ment requires IPI to finish the entire casino/resort by Feb. 20, 2021, and asked Zhou if he is going to complete the project by that date.

Zhou said it would be difficult, considering the two super typhoons that devastated Saipan as well as the COVID-19 pandemic and shortage of skilled labor. Zhou said the pandemic has had a massive impact on the construction site's progress and caused IPI's inability to schedule manufacturing technicians/inspectors to Saipan because of flight suspensions and quaran-

tine restrictions.

He also disclosed that the status of the ongoing H-2B visa interview process remains unchanged as no further information has been provided by U.S. embassies.

With respect to the fire at one of IPI's warehouses in Lower Base last June 12, Zhou said it damaged construction materials but that this will not delay the project.

He said they are redoing inventory and waiting for a report about the fire from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services.

NMC looks into testing over 1,000 students

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College is looking at possibly requiring over 1,000 of its returning students to get tested before physical classes resume for the fall semester.

According to NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico, NMC is looking at possibly requiring over 1,000 NMC students who will be returning in the fall to get tested but the plan is still being developed.

"We have contacted and are in discussion with [COVID-19 Task Force] chair Warren Villagomez...as well as other members to see what we can do to have, like, an NMC day for testing, similar to what the Public School System has been discussing for their employees and their students. So we have, again, about 150 employees and about 1,300 students. We wanted to see if we can have a day or a couple days or a few days," he said.

"That's something that's still developing. There are some issues that are surrounding that but our employees [will be] required, but we will be making that announcement

with regard to students later this summer," Eliptico added.

Over 90% of NMC employees who are returning from three months of teleworking as a result of COVID-19 have already gotten tested since NMC has required them to undergo the test. "The employees are returning so one of the guidelines that we provided employees before coming back to campus, after they were teleworking for the past three months, is having to go through the testing. So most of our employees—I believe about 90% of those who are coming back to campus—have already been tested through the community testing activities that were provided by the governor's office and the COVID-19 Task Force at the airport," he said.

For the upcoming fall semester, Eliptico said that NMC is leaning toward a hybrid approach; this would mix physical classes with virtual classes.

"The hybrid approach is [to] look at which classes can be successfully offered online, and the quality of by which we can maintain through entirely online, so our default is to have it online. But if there are com-

ponents of the class, for example if there's a lab component, whether it's a science class or it's another class that involves some sort of hands-on or face-to-face requirement, that will be accommodated in person," Eliptico said.

As much as possible, he said, NMC wants to avoid as much face-to-face interaction as possible for safety purposes. "When we do have those in-person elements, we will be...maximizing space between students. Again, we want to avoid having those face-to-face interactions if they're not entirely necessary. So for those classes that can be successfully offered throughout the whole semester online, we will do that, but there are some classes that...need that in-person element, and those classes will then have components of the semester in person. We are looking at it class-by-class, so it's not like all classes will be half online and half in person. We're looking at each class to make sure that we are maintaining the quality of the instruction, as well as the engagement of the students throughout the whole semester," Eliptico said.

'What's happening in Guam can happen here'



File photo shows the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

JUSTINE NAUTA

By JUSTINE NAUTA

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REPORTER

Despite an original target completion date of May 28, construction work is still ongoing at the Alternate Care Site facility that is currently being built at the Kanoa Resort in Susupe.

Patrick Guerrero, the governor's authorized representative, stated during yesterday's House of Representatives meeting with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force that the facility itself is halfway done, with generators, electronic health record computer systems, and medical supplies that will be soon placed in coming weeks.

He added that parking lots for an ambulance entrance is being worked on today and tomorrow, along with gauge-packed units that will be installed in the same area where the ACS will be receiving patients.

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) raised a concern that the spike in cases in neighboring Guam can eas-

ily happen in the Commonwealth, which is why the ACS should be completed at the soonest time possible.

Last June 27, medical beds and equipment were brought to the facility. As of today, Guerrero said that three different suppliers are bringing in all the equipment to the facility. He added that it will take about a week to 10 days to put the equipment in place.

As far as staffing goes, Guerrero said that, although he can't speak on behalf of the hospital, even the hospital has limited care itself and, at some point, the ACS will need more providers and medical personnel to run the facility.

The COVID-19 Task Force will be prioritizing the facility to make sure that it will be running as smoothly as possible before putting in the much-needed staff, but Guerrero acknowledged that the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. staff need some time to figure out what will work out for the facility.

"CHCC staff need to get

in there and be comfortable with the place, and learn about the ins and outs of the place and put together their plan on how to best run the facility," said Guerrero.

Additionally, he stated that the COVID-19 Task Force has a mission assignment with the U.S. Army for 44 medical personnel. "We do have a mission assignment with the U.S. Army for 44 medical personnel and when we say we need them, then they've given us a two-week timeline on when those 44 medical personnel would come in," he added.

Since COVID-19 is rapidly evolving, learning how to control or treat it is a big concern and "Lee Pan" Guerrero raised that concern by asking, "Do we have our doctors and nurses ready to handle an escalating number of infections? That is a concern."

With home quarantine being implemented, there's a great chance of infection happening if returning residents aren't careful and do not take into consideration that they

could have the virus. This led Guerrero to ask GAR, "Is ACS ready? Do we have adequate doctor, nurses? Are they being trained properly?"

Warren Villagomez, who chairs that COVID-19 Task Force, reassured that Esther Muña, CHCC chief executive officer, and her team have been meeting daily.

"I hope that the task force is ready for such a day [if] we have a huge number of infected individuals because we're only seeing a trickle of this, we haven't seen the full infec-

tion," said Guerrero. "What's happening in Guam can happen here. We need to have this unit ready and make sure that our doctors and nurses are properly trained."

To date, the CNMI has 30 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with two deaths and one active case.

COVID-19 in Guam

Five new cases of COVID-19 were reported to the Department of Public Health and Social Services in Guam last June 26 through June 28. Four

cases tested positive at the Diagnostic Laboratory Services and one case tested positive at U.S. Naval Hospital, Guam.

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, one case reported household contact to a confirmed case and was identified through contact tracing. No other cases have reported contact to a confirmed case.

To date, Guam has a total of 253 confirmed cases of COVID-19, with five deaths, 179 released from isolation, and 69 active cases.



02

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Villagomez: Our COVID-19 efforts extend up to the Northern Islands

By IVA MAURIN

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REPORTER

COVID-19 Task Force chairman Warren Villagomez assured the House of Representatives yesterday that the CNMI's anti-COVID-19 efforts extend all the way up to the Northern Islands in response to Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) expressing concern whether individuals that go to the islands are subjected to COVID-19 tests prior to their visit.

"There are boats that go up there to deliver provisions and rations to those who are still up [in the Northern Islands]. Of course, we have to make sure that those who

go up there are safe from COVID-19 to prevent from bringing it up there," Castro said. "With these groups that go back and forth between the Northern Islands, has the task force thought about ensuring that they're properly screened and tested prior to leaving so that way, whatever's up there, whether it's in Pagan or any of the other islands are safe?"

Enumerators from the CNMI Census recently went to the Northern Islands to conduct their survey, followed by, just a few days ago, YouTube vlogger Robert Arrington and his crew, along with government officers led by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who joined Arrington as part of the

vlogger's promotional expedition in the Northern Islands.

"Be assured that it's a unilateral, north-south efforts," Villagomez replied, speaking about the COVID-19 efforts. "We treat the Northern Island, all the way up to Maug, just like Rota and Tinian."

He said that, as borders are opened for Rota, as an example, "swabbing," or testing is in place, to make sure that "foremost, those folks that are going out are negative, and make sure they minimize the risk of a spread."

Villagomez also said that the Census team, as well as the YouTube crew all got tested prior to going to the Northern Islands.



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PSS to launch online registration soon

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Public School System is working on an online registration system for returning and new students to abide by COVID-19 social distancing measures.

ing measures.

There is no launch date yet, but PSS assures parents and guardians that PSS has been working tirelessly to get the registration site up as soon as possible.

PSS is encouraging parents and

guardians of returning and new students to prepare documents beforehand to make the registration swift and easy.

PSS will require parent or guardian email addresses, a valid health certificate of the student, a map of the family residence, valid photo IDs of parents and guardians, and other required documents.

Parents and guardians may look up

additional registration requirements on the PSS official Facebook page.

According to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada, classes are set to resume on Aug. 31, much earlier than the originally projected September opening.

Initially, Ada was unsure about a September opening, saying that a September opening was tentative.

However, due to the current community vulnerability level being at Level Blue, PSS is now looking at an earlier start on Aug. 31.

PSS aims to resume classes on Aug. 31 and is looking at a mix between virtual and in-class instruction to deal with the social distancing measures in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

JKPL programs and services in July

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's Summer Reading Program "Imagine Your Story" is sharing limited public programs and services with the community this July.

Registration is required. Valid Joeten-Kiyu Public Library card is required and limited seats only. Patrons under age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Registration is open on Tuesday to Thursday from 9:30am to 3:30pm and

Friday and Saturday from 9:30am to 11:30am. You may call them at 235-7315/7322/7323(READ).

Limited programs and services

■ Free Early Literacy Story Hour: Motherhead/Fatheread CNMI Children's Story Exploring Class; Age 0-4 years old; Tuesdays: July 14, 21, and 28, from 2:30pm to 3:30pm; Friday: July 31, from 10:30am to 11:30pm; Registration required; 10

seats only.

■ Free Children's Story Hours: Motherhead/Fatheread CNMI Children's Story Exploring class; Age 5-11 years old; Wednesdays and Thursdays: July 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, and 30, from 10:30am to 11:30am; Registration required. Ten seats only.

■ AV2 Let's Read: Added value/audio visual media enhanced books; Age 6 years and older; Saturdays: July 18 and 25, from 10:30am to 11:30 am; six seats only.

■ Libraries Lead with Digital

Skills Program: age 18 years and older; Tuesdays to Saturdays by appointment; registration required; five seats only.

■ Community Cultural Class: Talaya (cast net or throw net); Saturdays: July 11, 18, and 25, at 1:30pm; 15 seats only.

■ Beginner Ukulele Class: Fee \$25/individual; Age 8 years old and older; Tuesdays and Fridays: July 14, 17, 21, and 24, from 10:30am to 11:30am; Registration required; 20 seats only.

■ Baker & Taylor Axis 360 e-books: A library card and pin is required. To request for a pin, call the library.

■ Explore the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library online catalog: Website: www.cnmilib.org to reserve your JKPL library book.

In partnership with the CNMI Public School System, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library will be distributing Meals to Go for participating children in library-sponsored programming by appointment only. **(PR)**

LABOR

From Page 1

Standards Act, including remedying missed payroll and meeting its payroll obligations going forward.

Song said that in the U.S. Labor Secretary's lawsuit against IPI, the court entered the consent judgment on April 11, 2019, which barred IPI from violating the FLSA.

Song said the consent judgment also provided for a payment plan totaling \$3,360,000, including a Dec. 1, 2019, payment of \$1,020,000.

The lawyer said IPI defaulted on its December 2019 payment but

made a partial payment of \$250,000 to the U.S. Department of Labor on May 20, 2020.

In Pacific Rim's lawsuit against IPI, the court entered an amended judgment in the amount of \$6,909,333 on May 28, 2020. On June 8, 2020, the court issued a writ of execution to several banks on Saipan in connection with Pacific Rim's lawsuit.

According to IPI's representations and public statements, these writs caused IPI to default on its obligations to pay its employees and miss its payroll. IPI employees recently held public protests regarding the missed payroll.

Song said IPI has violated the

FLSA and the court's injunction by failing to pay its employees in accordance with the FLSA and missing payroll.

IPI has been placed on independent monitoring in connection with then-U.S. Labor secretary R. Alexander Acosta's lawsuit in federal court against IPI for alleged violations of the FLSA over the construction of its casino/resort project in Garapan.

To resolve the lawsuit, IPI and Acosta agreed to an entry of a consent judgment. IPI agreed to pay a total of \$3.36 million, which is composed of \$1.58 million in backwages, another \$1.58 million in liquidated damages, and \$200,000 in civil penalties.

SKYMARK

From Page 1

2020, in response to decreased travel demand due to the global coronavirus outbreak and the enforcement of quarantine measures by the CNMI and Japan governments.

King-Hinds said that airlines going back online depends on the duration and magnitude of the outbreak and containment measures and the degree of consumer confidence in air travel.

"Until such time that that the virus is contained, we should expect to see hesitation to resume services," she said.

Due to the outbreak, SkyMark's last flights between Saipan and Japan were last March 25. The company's original plan was that the suspension would only last until May 10, 2020.

The CNMI has set a July 15, 2020, target date to reopen the CNMI to tourists, and CPA is pulling together an action plan in preparation for this, including barring

individuals dropping off passengers at the departure terminal from entering the terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport effective last Thursday, unless those dropping off passengers are escorting unaccompanied minors or special need passengers.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio said taxi and shuttle operators may not wait for passengers outside the arrival exit point as they will designate areas for operators to pick up passengers.

JERRY

From Page 1

month and was not able to see or speak to family members due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Facey has lived in Micronesia, including Saipan, for 40 years before moving to Gilbert, Arizona where he spent his last months. On Saipan, Facey created Facey Farms in 1974, which had a total of nine houses on the premises. In an email to *Saipan Tribune* last May 14, Facey said: "Being a long-time resident, I still follow the local news and keep in touch with dear friends on Saipan. My heart goes out to everyone that is struggling as we face challenging times with this pandemic. We all will certainly endure this challenge and come back stronger than ever."

When reached for comments, Ruszala, who heads the local chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, described Facey as a "bright light, out-

shone only by the light of his wife, Irene. He was kind, welcoming, fun, loyal, strong, reliable, and everything you'd want to have in a father, husband, or friend."

Ruszala said he looked to Facey as an example of how to be a father and a husband. In fact, the Facey couple were Ruszala and his wife Kathy's godparents at their wedding.

Ruszala will remember Facey as a good man who taught him a lot by way of advice and example. Ruszala said he and his family are thankful to have earned Facey's friendship.

"I'll never forget the way his face lit up when we bumped into one another around town or when he returned to Saipan for a visit," said Ruszala. "He somehow even kept that smile when our kids crawled over him whenever we met over dinner. We're all going to miss him."

Richard Sikkel, who moved to Saipan nearly 20 years ago and has taken over Facey Farms, first met Facey when Sikkel wanted to live

on Facey Farms. "When we first moved to the island nearly 20 years ago, we found Facey Farm and knew instantly that was where we wanted to live. I called Jerry and told him we wanted to move into the next available unit. He was a bit taken aback and suggested we meet first before making a commitment," said Sikkel.

According to Sikkel, it was important for Facey that the spirit of the farm be preserved and would keep its name. Which then made it possible for Sikkel to take over the farm when Facey and his wife Irene moved off-island.

"Over the years Jerry made it a point to check in on how things were at the farm and I would joke about renaming the place," said Sikkel. "When we took down the sign for maintenance, he was on the phone the next day asking why the sign was gone."

Sikkel stated that Facey's spirit, generosity, and his big heart will be missed by his family, and that he feels very fortunate to call Facey Farms home.

CDC

From Page 1

tion of the Department of Health and Human Services, based on a survey that the CDC has conducted.

"From all the good reports that's been submitted to HHS and CDC with regards to efforts here in the Pacific...we are at the lowest bottom [of the] totem pole in regards to COVID-19 infectious spread," he said.

The survey result means that all the work and planning that the CNMI has been putting together is showing results, Villagomez added. "With all the efforts and planning that's been going on with CDC, HHS, and of course, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., and the holistic government approach, making sure that everyone is engaged in this particular mission, we see the work that's been done and the fruition of where we are at," he added.

The Commonwealth has yet to see the full effect of its COVID-19 efforts, particularly as the island has yet to open its doors to tourists. According to Villagomez, the task force has been wanting to come up with models and ideas to make sure that risks of a COVID-19 spread is minimized, for the community and for those entering the island, when the CNMI opens.

The CNMI has a target date of July 15 for the reopening of its tourism industry.

Quarantine relaxed?

With the recent upsurge of COVID-19 cases in the U.S. mainland, the confirmation of a second wave in South Korea, and the CNMI's reopening date moving closer, there are worries in the community that the CNMI government could be relaxing the quarantine protocols too early than it should be.

Last week, the implementation of a home quarantine as an option for incoming passengers was announced, which drew mixed reactions from the community.

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) raised such a concern, saying that, as COVID-19 cases increase drastically in the U.S. mainland and elsewhere, quarantine restrictions in the CNMI, which have been successful, are becoming more relaxed.

"We are aware of the risks," Villagomez said in response, adding that the restrictions can be tightened anytime. He added that the task force is being "very mindful" of the monetary obligation that the CNMI government is being put into, regarding quarantine sites.

"This is the best approach, where we're at now, sending residents home and doing self-quarantine based on our data, our numbers. ...We continue to learn different things every day, in approaches that we take, at the airport, the screening that we are doing, the entry point, the registration efforts," he added.

Expanding testing to precincts

Further, the community-based testing is about to expand into the villages as the CNMI transitions into precinct-based testing.

Villagomez yesterday appealed to the members of the House of Representatives for help in moving the testing to the precincts, to increase its accessibility to members of the community with limited mobility or access to transportation.

"We need assistance at the precinct level, to coordinate precinct-level testings, to embrace and engage with our community to promote testing within the precincts," he said.

Villagomez also asked House Committee on Health and Welfare chair Rep. Jose Itibus (R-Saipan), also the House's COVID-19 Task Force member, to guide them to a point of contact in the Legislature to initiate the precinct testing. Help is also needed on the site that would be best, as well as in identifying the vulnerable population within the precincts.

Villagomez also wanted to know how to meet the needs of those in the community who have no cars or those with language barriers. "At what level of coordination do we need to bring our community that hasn't been tested to be tested," he added.

As the COVID-19 Task Force works on the precinct-based testing, Villagomez clarified that the community-based testing has not stopped. "It is still ongoing. We haven't shut down testing. Just yesterday, we're doing community-based testing at Kanoa [Resort]. We coordinated efforts with the business community, it's still a moving effort."

Monday is start of submission of nominating petitions, candidacies

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

This Monday, July 6, is the first day for submission of nominating petition and candidacy for the upcoming Nov. 3 elections.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Julita Villagomez also announced yesterday that this Monday is also the last

day to establish residency requirements.

Aug. 5 is the last day to submit nominating petitions and candidacies.

Villagomez encouraged interested candidates and those who want to establish residency requirements to come in early before the deadline to avoid jampacking the CEC office in Susupe. She said people should be wearing masks and

practice proper social distancing at the CEC office.

She said interested candidates who will be sending other people to turn in their nominating petitions should make sure to have the complete package, as with the case of some candidates from Tinian and Rota who would let others hand-carry their nominating petition package to CEC.

Those who want to establish

residency requirements need to go to CEC and bring a passport or birth certificate.

Villagomez said last day of registration to vote is Sept. 4.

She said CEC commissioners will hold a board meeting on July 8.

The position for the U.S. delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives and 34 other government positions, ex-

cluding three from the Judiciary for retention, are up for grabs in the coming elections on Nov. 3.

It used to be called the mid-term elections but is now referred to as a general elections.

New COVID-19 guidelines for travelers

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands government recently announced a new quarantine procedure as of June 20, 2020, for all individuals entering the Marianas.

Non-residents travelers entering the CNMI are advised to complete all of the following steps in order to be responsibly exempted from the 14-day quarantine process:

1. Fill out an online CNMI Mandatory Declaration Form at least three (3) days prior to their arrival in The Marianas at www.governor.gov.mp/covid19/travel;

2. Register and respond daily to the Sara Alert Symptom Monitoring System

3. Have proof of a valid polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test at least three (3) days prior to their arrival on The Marianas. The test result will then be reviewed by a

CNMI Health Representative.

A valid proof PCR test result is defined as a traveler's specimen collected within three days or 72 hours prior to arrival. The test result must have the name of the traveler, name of the processing laboratory, specimen collection date, the indication that a PCR test was conducted, the result, and all this information be in English.

A nonresident traveler may be considered for exemption from quarantine and/or testing on arrival if there are epidemiological indications to support the exemption. An epidemiological indication may be prescribed by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. if the country or state of origin has reported limited community transmission in the last 30 days.

Nonresident travelers without proof of a valid PCR test will be subject to mandatory quarantine for a five-day period in a manner prescribed by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. at the CNMI COVID-19 Task Force's designated isolation site at their own cost of \$400 per night (including meals). On the

fifth day, the individual will be required to process for a test and pay a fee up to \$300 for laboratory testing.

"The Marianas has been proactive in helping to flatten the curve to protect our residents from COVID-19 and prepare for the return of visitors," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Health and safety continue to remain a top priority and we look forward to the return of visitors and appreciate their participation in these health protocols, which will help minimize infection."

The government reminds the public and all individuals entering the CNMI that getting tested for COVID-19 does not improve response to the illness, nor does it reduce the risk of contracting or transmitting the disease. People who are tested and have a negative result are still vulnerable to the virus. All individuals entering the Marianas are advised to wear a face covering, practice social distancing, and good hygiene to avoid catching the virus themselves and to avoid passing it on to others. **(PR)**

Scheduled power interruption on Thursday

There will be a scheduled power interruption on Thursday, July 2, 2020, from 8:30am to 12:30pm for Kiya 2, affecting As Perdido (Bayak Dr. and Faha Pl. No water well(s) or wastewater lift station will be affected.

The purpose of the scheduled power interruption is to de-energize utility lines such that Commonwealth Utilities Corp. linemen are able to safely straighten two leaning primary power poles that were damaged from Super Typhoon Yutu within the affected area.

As a result of the repair, a more reliable and safe power system will be provided to the people of the CNMI. Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). **(PR)**

Today is NMC's deadline to submit FAFSA application

Northern Marianas College is reminding students that the priority deadline to submit a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid is today, June 30, 2020.

The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal financial aid and other scholarships. It is recommended that students submit their FAFSA on the June 30 deadline so that they can receive priority consideration. However, students may still submit a FAFSA after the priority deadline.

NMC would also like to remind students about the other upcoming local scholarship deadlines as well:

- CNMI Scholarship Deadline: July 1, 2020

- SHEFA Deadline: July 1, 2020

For assistance:

- For any questions about the CNMI Scholarship program, email awards@cnmischolarship.net or visit www.cnmischolarship.net to apply.

- For any questions about

the Saipan Higher Education Financial Aid program, email saipanshefa@gmail.com or visit www.saipanshefa.net to apply.

- FAFSA: Visit www.fafsa.gov and complete the form from any internet capable device (Indicate NMC as a school choice by entering school code 015746); or, for help with accessing Pell grants or filling out FAFSA, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at fao@marianas.edu.

- Need any help with filling out ANY of the forms? Contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791/2/3/4 or email fao@marianas.edu for assistance.

Visit www.marianas.edu to access information about enrolling at NMC in the Fall or to register for classes. You can also contact the NMC admissions office by emailing admissions@marianas.edu or call (670) 237-6768/6771. **(PR)**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID

ITB No.: ITB20-DPL-082

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 30, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"CHARTERED VESSEL FOR TWO (2) ROUND TRIPS –
SAIPAN/ANATAHAN/SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC LANDS"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARIANNE C. TEREGEYO
SECRETARY, DPL

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S



NORTHERN MARIANAS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE
P.O. BOX 506689, SAIPAN, MP 96950
PHONE: 670.234.3878

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SHELTER WORKER (GUMA ESPERANSA)

(Temporary, 12 months)

NMCADSV is looking for a motivated individual to join its team! We are looking for someone who is rooted in service and believes in the social justice values we uphold.

Job Summary: The SHELTER WORKER will be employed by NMCADSV and report to Guma Esperansa, Karidat Social Services. Guma Esperansa is the shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in the CNMI. Shelter workers provide a variety of direct shelter and advocacy services and related administrative tasks under the direct supervision of the Shelter Manager, including ensuring the safety of residents and other staff, assisting with schedules and transportation for clients, conduct intake assessments, participate in meetings and training, and other tasks as assigned. Please see the "Position Description" for a complete list of duties and responsibilities.

Minimum Qualifications: An understanding of and agreement with NMCADSV's mission statement and philosophy regarding the elimination of domestic and sexual violence; an understanding of and agreement with the mission of Karidat Social Services; good verbal and written communication skills; and capacity for warmth and openness for working with people from varied backgrounds.

Applicants must be able to work evenings, nights, weekends, and holidays to ensure appropriate coverage for Guma Esperansa, a 24-hour residential shelter. Also, applicants should have reliable transportation and a valid CNMI driver's license.

Classification & Salary Range: Full Time, Non-Exempt. \$16,500.00 per annum.

Copies of the full Position Description can be requested by email at info@endviolencenmi.org or downloaded from the NMCADSV Facebook page.

To Apply: Submit the following on or before 11:59 p.m. on Friday, July 3, 2020. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

1. Cover Letter
2. Karidat Application Form (available for download at NMCADSV Facebook Page or by email to info@endviolencenmi.org)
3. Copy of Diploma or Degree
4. Copy of valid CNMI Driver's License
5. Copy of Police Clearance (obtained within the past 6 months)

Applications can be submitted through:

1. Email (with all attachments) to info@endviolencenmi.org, OR
2. Mail hard-copy to NMCADSV, P.O. Box 506689, Saipan, MP 96950. (Mailed applications must be postmarked on or before the deadline.), OR
3. Drop hard-copy to Karidat Social Services, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan (Formerly Sr. Remedios Early Childhood Development Center).

NMCADSV is an equal opportunity employer.
Individuals from under-served communities are encouraged to apply.

This project is 100% supported by federal grants, awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, Grant Award #2019-WR-AX-0051. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this release are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Department of Justice.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPENING DATE: June 29, 2020 CLOSING DATE: July 15, 2020 TIME: 9:00 A.M.

| NMHC JVA No. | Positions: | Salary: |
|--------------|--|--|
| 2020-006 | CDBG-DR Compliance Specialist – Tinian Field Office | UNGRADED \$25,000.00 to \$30,000.00 |

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information may be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Tinian Field Office, San Jose; Drop-off application at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/
JESSE S. PALACIOS
Corporate Director

Ride4Pride motorcade attracts 200 vehicles

Over 200 vehicles and 700 members of the community took part in last Saturday's Ride4Pride motorcade that was organized by Pride Marianas Youth.

"My heart is full with the outpouring of support from our committee leads, volunteers, and community partners," said Pride Marianas Youth founder and president Jennifer Maratita. "Their creativity and hours spent organizing the Pride Month 2020 activities to promote and celebrate our LGBTQIA+ community, especially our youth, was a testament of hope and change for a more colorful and inclusive Marianas."

Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto joined the motorcade that started in Marpi and celebrated Pride Month despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

"I am grateful we were still able to have a celebration for the whole community to conclude Pride Month where the positivity and support we re-

ceived were still very much present throughout the motorcade," she said.

"We saw families waiting for us to pass by and we are so grateful they put in effort and time to see us with their signs and cheers. Even a simple wave gave us great encouragement and support," Sasamoto added.

As a show of support, Tan-Holdings had the crosswalk in front of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, which it owns, and the Paseo de Marianas repainted in the colors of the rainbow, which has become the de facto symbol of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Social media influencer "chubbyrobbie," who joined the Ride4Pride motorcade, said, "The convoy was very enjoyable and I had so much fun. It was amazing to see so many individuals across all ages in the convoy and on the sidewalks waving."

As a social media influencer, chubbyrobbie creates videos that help share the mes-



KRIZEL TUAZON
Participants in last Saturday's Ride4Pride motorcade that was organized by Pride Marianas Youth, including 2019 Miss Marianas Shannon Sasamoto, second from right, pose for the camera before the start of the motorcade.

sage of pride through dance and just talking to family and friends when he goes live on Tiktok as well as spreading the same love through other social media platforms.

Jefferson Mateo was also proud to have taken part in the celebration. "Pride Month is to love and respect everyone! Everyone has a story, and if you respect all, then everyone will live happily and safely."

"To youth and future generations, love everyone despite their differences. Say 'hi' to everyone with a smile because little actions can make a person's day. Be confident in who you are and have a good heart," he added. *(Chevy Alipio)*

Miss Earth pageant is a go

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 2020 Miss Earth Northern Marianas pageant is still a go this October despite the COVID-19 pandemic and current safety measures in place.

According to Dee Clayton, president of Exquisite Productions that organizes Miss Earth Northern Marianas, the plan is to go virtual on Oct. 26 at the Saipan World Resort. "It really all depends on the situation and social distancing. My plan is to go virtual if worse comes to worst, but we're going to have pageant for sure," she said.

Clayton said that no matter what the situation is come Oct. 26 with the pandemic, the Miss

Earth Northern Marianas will continue. "Right now, we're really leaning toward a virtual ceremony because Miss Earth around the world...will also be doing their pageants virtually, so I already know what to do," she added.

The pageant, Clayton explained, will be completely different from last year. If they go the virtual route, the pageant will have no audience present and the only individuals who will be present at the Saipan World Resort will be the contestants, directors, judges, and camera crew. "It's probably only going to be the contestants, the directors, the cameraman and all those necessary to conduct the program

and we will go live and then everyone can watch together, live," she said.

Clayton said that the safety of the community, the contestants, the directors, and everyone involved is the utmost priority. "It is different because... we don't know what could happen and we have to think of the safety of the community and so we really have to respect everything that is going on and the priority is the safety of everybody," she said.

These year, seven young women will vie for the chance to represent the Marianas at the Miss Earth International pageant in December. The candidates for this year's pageant are Arianne Cabrera, Zoe

Stephanson, Jessme Jones, Maria Terlaje, Jaybriana Manalo, Kaitlin Borja, and Tawnie Ngeskebei.

Cabrera briefly shared that the reason she joined Miss Earth was because she loves the islands' beaches and has seen first-hand how poorly it has been taken care of. "I want to use this platform to reach out to the community and encourage them to educate themselves on sustainability for tourism," she said.

Stephanson said she joined Miss Earth because she has always advocated for reduction of air pollution and healthy living. "My advocacy is to establish a biking clinic in our community, which means that, instead of using cars, people have the option of using their bike to go from one place to the other and this reduces greenhouse emissions, air pollution, and also saves a lot of gas for cars," she said.

Terlaje said that she joined the Miss Earth pageant to advocate for love and respect for the islands. "I wanted to use this platform to inform the community about our environmental issues. With this platform, I would like to educate and inspire our people, especially our youth, that small actions can make a big difference," she said.

Manalo said she joined Miss Earth to gain confidence and help save marine life.

Borja said it has always been her passion to preserve natural resources.

Ngeskebei said her advocacy is to assist and support the public in preserving the islands' beauty.

Yapese named APIC-MCT International Student Scholar

TOKYO—A recent college graduate of Yapese ancestry has been awarded a scholarship that will allow her to earn a Master's Degree in Environmental Studies at Sophia University in Japan.



Yatilman

Darla Yatilman, who was raised in Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia, is the 2020 recipient of the coveted APIC-MCT International Student Scholarship. The highly competitive scholarship is awarded to individuals from the Micronesia region to attend Sophia University's Graduate School of Environmental Studies in Tokyo.

"I'm passionate to further my education in this field because of the modern-day threats or issues affecting our Pacific Islands and communities," said Yatilman, who recently graduated from Wheeling Jesuit University in West Virginia with a BA in Criminal Justice.

Yatilman is the daughter of Andrew and Gereth Yatilman, originally from Yap and now living in Pohnpei. Andrew Yatilman is the secretary of the Department of Environment, Climate Change, and Emergency Management, of the Federated States of Micronesia. Darla Yatilman graduated from Xavier High School in

Chuuk, FSM.

The full-ride graduate scholarship is a partnership between The Association for Promotion of International Cooperation, the non-profit Micronesia Conservation Trust, and Sophia University. The MCT's Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Program also supports graduate students selected for this initiative.

The scholarship's goal is to train Micronesians to play leadership roles to develop regional responses to issues such as rising sea levels and climate change. This is the fourth year that the graduate scholarship is being offered.

APIC is a Tokyo-based foundation that strengthens ties between Japan and nations in the Pacific Islands and Caribbean. The Micronesia—Conservation Trust, headquartered in Pohnpei, supports biodiversity conservation and related sustainable development in the region comprised of the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, U.S. territory of Guam and U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Sophia University is considered one of the top research universities in Japan. *(PR)*



KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The contestants of the 2020 Miss Earth Northern Marianas pose for a photo following the sash pinning ceremony at the Saipan Mayor's Office last Friday.

Exceptional drought continues for the CNMI

A relatively dry pattern is expected to persist a couple more weeks across the Marianas.

According to a “drought statement” released by CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency,

rainfall will be below-adequate the next two weeks with 1 to 2 inches of rainfall expected the next 10 days across the Marianas. This will do little to relieve drought conditions, particularly for Tinian and Saipan, which

remain within the “Exceptional Drought” category.

The statement said that rainfall has been patchy for Guam and the CNMI the last few weeks.

“Rainfall so far this month

has been 40-50% of normal. Deep tropical moisture has kept south of Guam the last couple weeks despite a couple disturbances passing nearby. A wet trade-wind pattern continues to provide steady show-

ers to some islands across the region. Disturbances embedded in the trade flow and a favorable upper-level wind pattern have maintained steady showers across Yap state south of Ulithi.

“Showers continue to be spottier across islands of northern Chuuk state and the

northern Marshalls as fragments of the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone and trade disturbances pass overhead.

“...A dry trade-wind pattern is still anchored across the Marianas. ...Despite this, officials across the CNMI report water levels are still above thresholds for concern.” (PR)

9th Mission Support Command responds to COVID-19 pandemic

By MAJ. MELODIE TAFARO
9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND

FORT SHAFTER FLATS, Hawaii—The 9th Mission Support Command, headquartered in Honolulu, Hawaii, has mobilized close to 400 personnel since March, throughout the Pacific, to provide assistance to Defense Support to Civil Authorities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 9th MSC is the most geographically dispersed command in America’s Army Reserve and provides U.S. Indo Pacific Command with capable forces at key points. The command crosses seven time zones, two U.S. states, two U.S. territories, a Commonwealth, and two foreign countries.

“As a U.S. Army Reserve geographic command designated as a principal Ready Force unit, and based on our wide array of forces across the Indo-Pacific Theater, the 9th

MSC prepares for such contingencies year-round,” said Col. Joseph “Larry” Thomas Jr., 9th MSC G3/5/7 deputy chief of staff. “The 9th MSC was more than ready to answer the call, mobilize, and in some cases forward-deploy forces in order to execute and command and control validated FEMA mission assignments and other Theater Joint Force Land Component Command requirements in support of COVID-19 response efforts.”

The 9th MSC proved their training effective as they seamlessly transitioned from steady state operations to DSCA efforts. The 9th MSC activated its Crisis Action Team and immediately began working with the TJFLCC staff to match capabilities against emerging requirements.

“The CAT was immediately stood up through an initial team huddle of all personal staff and special staff,” said 1st Lt. Lauren Brown, with



Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Hannah, VR-51 crew member, and Sgt. 1st Class Gilberto Rivera, #9msc Senior Movement Non-Commissioned Officer, review manifest and items at #mcbhawaii May 7, to facilitate the reception, packaging and delivery of critical lab equipment from Hawaii to American Samoa, in order to provide additional testing capabilities in support of #covid2019 response efforts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the COVID-19 Fragmentary Order Team. The COVID-19 FRAGO Team ensured “the information pertaining to [9th MSC] from Army Headquarters, USARPAC and U.S. Army Hawaii was documented.”

The Command quickly organized personnel and supplies to match the need of the

mission, people and location, eventually resulting with a total of 376 total personnel completing seven FEMA Mission Assignments and TJFLCC and USARHAW tasks.

“Mobilization of 9th MSC forces started with multiple tactical-level units to provide Joint Reception Staging and Onward Movement for other

joint and interagency partners, and to operate federal staging areas in American Samoa, Guam, and Saipan,” said Thomas. “We then mobilized a team of planners to augment Task Force West in Guam, a team of nurses to provide medical augmentation in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and additional staff personnel from 9th MSC Headquarters and its subordinate Theater Support Group, to round-out those operational-level staffs and keep pace with planning, reporting, and command and control requirements.”

In addition to mobilizing nurses, medical planners and staff personnel, soldiers with the 9th MSC supporting JR-SOI moved 273 personnel, four pallets, 16 boxes, eight bags of medical equipment and cargo and over 11,500 units of personal protective equipment into Guam, Saipan and American Samoa. The Command exercised Emergency Preparedness Liaison

Officers in Hawaii, Guam, American Samoa and CNMI.

The 9th MSC also provided personnel to support increased Force Protection/Health Protection Condition measures on installations across US-ARHAW area of operations, provided COVID Cleaning Teams and Contact Tracing Teams.

“With COVID-19 being a condition that is new, it did present the challenge of lack of knowledge on how to keep everyone safe while maintaining a work flow,” said Brown. “At times it has almost been like building a ship while it is flying.”

Throughout this pandemic, the 9th MSC adapted to these conditions.

“However, in the end, the 9th MSC enterprise rose to the challenge and completed all requirements while executing in a COVID-19 environment with social distancing, virtual collaboration, and facing other unforeseen circumstances and challenges,” said Thomas.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Well, Florida reopened. COVID-19 is surging, and the economy's shaky. Happy now?

The Miami City Commission made a bold move Thursday, passing an emergency order demanding that masks be worn by everyone in a public place, not just when entering a business. Ignore the order, and face a civil fine.

Good move. The order is clear and resolute, with slowing the spread of the coronavirus top of mind. Now the city needs the means to enforce it.

In fact, Miami-Dade, and every other local municipality, should follow Miami's lead and make masks mandatory in public. Walk out of your house, make sure you're wearing a mask. Period.

Unfortunately, face coverings, a critical component in stopping the virus, have become politicized and viewed by some as an infringement of their personal freedom. It's a selfish and foolish stance.

Too many people don't care that a national study suggests that between now and October, 33,000 lives could be saved if more of us wore masks.

ENFORCEMENT DIFFICULT

How to enforce the city order was an issue at the commission meeting. After much discussion, commissioners agreed to set a minimum fine of \$50 for a first offense, a \$150 fine for a second offense and a \$500 fine for a third offense. Arrest is a possibility for habitual offenders.

The recent spike in COVID-19 cases has prompted the crackdown, but there is little public questioning of whether, for the sake of the economy, South Florida opened too soon at the urging of Gov. Ron DeSantis and President Donald Trump.

No matter the numbers, the governor and local mayors have made it clear there is no going back to quarantine. Our new reality is figuring out how to survive. It would help if everyone were on board.

DeSantis did the right thing by indicating Thursday at a Tampa news conference that he is not planning to move up to the next phase of reopening just yet. That would be downright irresponsible. "We are where we are," he said. True, and it's not in a good place.

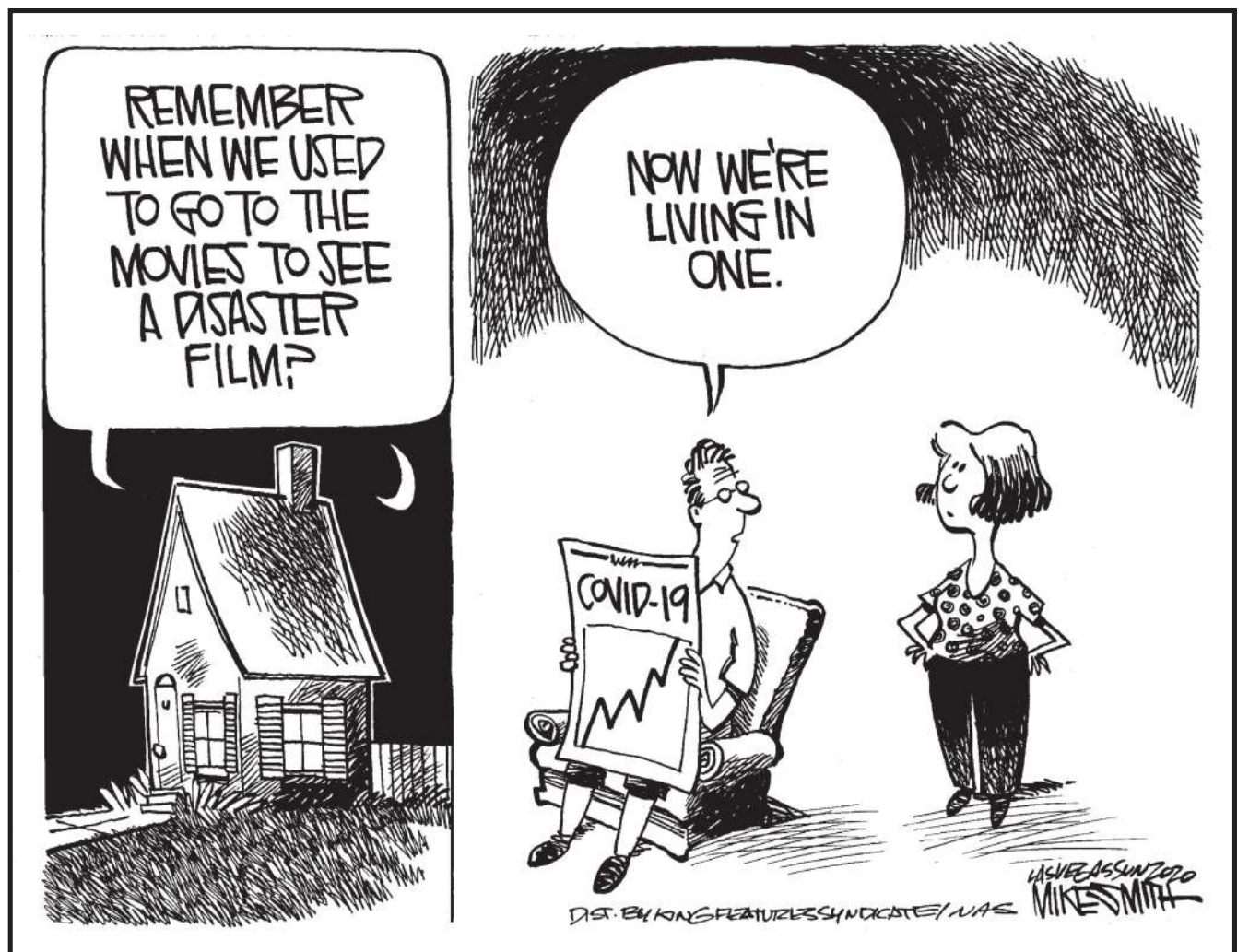
COVID-19 SURGES

In Florida, the number of new COVID-19 cases continues to gallop at record-breaking speed. Hospital admissions are up, and lines to be tested have grown long again since reopening.

If you listen carefully, you will hear a slight shift in taking responsibility stifling transmission—from political leaders to now the public.

The lack of firm directives from Tallahassee gave some residents tacit approval to flout the rules of physical distancing and wearing face masks. At this point, it really is their fault that the number of cases continues to rise—now

See COVID-19 on Next Page



Due-on-sale clauses: One reason transferring a loan is risky

When I look at buy/sell/swap pages on Facebook, I regularly see people trying to sell their cars. Commonly, these ads ask people to pay a bit of cash while also taking over the loan. But I wonder how often these folks think through the potential risks involved in doing so. One of those risks comes from due-on-sale clauses.

What is a due-on-sale clause?

It's a clause in most loan documents that allows the lender to demand full and immediate repayment of the loan if the borrower transfers mortgaged property to someone else. So, for example, if a person transfers their car to someone else, technically the lender can demand full repayment right away. And if you don't, they can take back the car and charge you a raft of fees to boot.

Why does the due-on-sale clause exist?

The clause traces back to the 1970s. At that time, interest rates were exploding with the cost of borrowing topping out at 18.6% in 1981. Ouch.

As a result of ever-escalating interest rates, when a homeowner would try to sell their home, the interest rate on their existing loan would be much lower than a buyer could get at the time of sale (assuming the buyer could even get a loan). So, buyers would frequently take over the existing, lower-interest loan rather than getting a new one.

Lenders didn't like that for a couple reasons. First, it's bad for business. Just as the buyer wanted to avoid paying existing, higher interest rates, the lenders wanted to retire old, lower-interest loans in favor of new, higher-interest ones. Second, lenders don't want to give loans to just anyone. They need to make sure the borrower has a fair chance of repaying the loan. Otherwise the lender goes out of business—hence, all the research they do on each borrower before issuing a loan. But what's the point of doing all that research if a creditworthy borrower can just turn around and flip the loan to an unknown buyer who may be much less creditworthy?

Do due-on-sale clauses only apply to sales?

If you thought yes, I understand why. But, in fact, the due-on-sale clause is much broader. It applies to the transfer of pretty much any interest, so perhaps it should be called a due-on-any-transfer-of-interest clause.

For instance, let's say you entered a land contract, which is

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate-planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!



essentially a rent-to-own arrangement in which the buyer leases the property until they've paid the seller an agreed-to price at which point ownership is formally transferred. Even though legal ownership did not transfer immediately, a watered-down version of ownership (known as equitable title) did. As a result, the land contract triggered the due-on-sale clause as soon as the parties signed the land contract. It doesn't matter that full ownership was transferred much later.

Do banks have to enforce a due-on-sale clause?

No. It's optional. And for now, lenders seldom do as long as they receive loan payments on time and in full. But if interest rates start creeping up, then lenders will have the same incentives as they did in the '70s to retire old, lower-interest loans in favor of new, higher-interest ones.

But just because lenders rarely activate the clause these days doesn't mean there's no risk. What if, for example, you go through a divorce and your less-than-happy ex-spouse tells the bank that you've transferred the property? It's one thing for the bank to ignore a transfer while they are getting paid, it's another thing for them to not act when they've been formally notified, especially if the bank personnel like your ex more than you.

When can you ignore a due-on-sale clause?

While the due-on-sale clause is broad, some exceptions exist. For instance, federal law blocks most lenders from enforcing a due-on-sale clause in a variety of situations, which can be found

See RISKY on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Who is a CNMI permanent resident?

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean—neither more nor less."

—Lewis Carroll, *Through the Looking Glass*, 1871

In our last column published on June 8, we discussed the eligibility requirements and procedures for application for the new CNMI Long Term Resident Status, which became law just over a year ago as Public Law 116-24. Since then, we have received a lot of inquiries, including several that we didn't anticipate. Specifically, people want to know what is the meaning of "CNMI Permanent Resident." And they want to know why, after living in the CNMI 20 or 30 years, they aren't "permanent residents." After all, they permanently reside here, don't they?

It all depends what the government means when it uses the words "permanent resident."

To review, the prerequisite qualifications for CNMI Long Term Resident status are as follows:

You must fall into one of the following six classes:

- **Stateless** – born in the CNMI between 1/1/74 and 1/9/78;
- **IRs of Stateless** – spouses and unmarried children under 21;
- **CNMI Permanent Resident** on November 27, 2009;
- **IRs of Permanent Residents** – spouses and unmarried children under 21;
- **IRs of US Citizens** – parent, spouse or child of any age; relationship must have existed on November 27, 2011 and must have continued to the present;
- **In-home caregivers** – must have had Caregiver Parole on 12/31/18.

If you are not in one of the above classes, you don't qualify.

COVID-19

From Page 8

sweeping in those between the ages of 18 and 34, who are the new younger victims of COVID-19.

And governments' inability to be everywhere at once, to enforce, say, mask requirements at the beach to slow transmission, could have been predicted. In fact, it was by a variety of national medical experts.

Again, the most diligent and responsible among us can wear masks, but how do we make others wear them? The state, and counties, reopened to get the economy going again. There's not denying that it's been hammered.

But is it working? On Thursday, Johnson & Wales University in North Miami announced it's closing. All freestanding Apple stores in South Florida also are shutting down.

Absent a strong, authoritative voice to navigate the state through this pandemic, little since reopening has been good for our—or the economy's—health.

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RISKY

From Page 8

at 12 U.S.C. § 1701(j)(3)(d). The main four are transfers to a borrower's living trust, transfers to a borrower's kids or spouse, transfers arising from a divorce decree or separation agreement, and transfers to a relative due to the borrower's death. In addition to these, for newer loans involving Fannie Mae (and perhaps Freddie Mac), you may also transfer the property to a limited liability company that you control or own a majority interest in under certain circumstances.

Regardless of whether you think one of these exceptions exist, if you are thinking about transferring or receiving property secured by a loan with a due-on-sale clause, have a lawyer look at the loan documents and walk you through the risks of moving forward. Sometimes it's a smart risk; other times it's a silly gamble.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

End of story. If you do fall into one of the above classes, then you also must prove all of the following four conditions:

- Lawfully present in the CNMI (including parole or deferred action) on either 12/31/18 or 6/25/19;
- Be admissible as an immigrant;
- Resided continuously and lawfully in the CNMI from November 28, 2009 through June 25, 2019;
- Not a citizen of the Marshalls, the FSM, or Palau.
- Most people who qualify to apply for CNMI Long Term Resident status are the parents of US citizen children born on or before November 27, 2011; a few who called us have caregiver parole instead.

But we have also had a lot of calls from foreign nationals living in the CNMI who believe themselves to qualify under the "CNMI Permanent Resident" class because they have been "residents" of the CNMI for many years, usually for decades. These are people who do not have U.S. citizen children or, if they do, the children are too young for the parents to qualify. Unfortunately, we have had to say: "Sorry, no. You don't qualify" to all of these people.

"Permanent resident" is what lawyers call a term of art. This means that these words, when used in a legal sense, lose their ordinary, everyday meaning, and acquire the meaning that the law gives them. To be considered a permanent resident, it is not enough that you have lived in a place for a long time; you must have qualified for the status under applicable law and then actually acquired it. Put another way, "permanently residing" does not, by itself, make you a "permanent resident."

Immigration into what is now the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has a fascinating history. During the time of the Trust Territory, immigration was governed by Trust Territory law. A Trust Territory Permanent Residency law was enacted by the 5th Northern Marianas District Legislature as P.L. 5-11, prior to the establishment of the CNMI. The permanent residency statute provided simple qualifications:

Section 1. The Resident Commissioner may grant permanent residency status to persons who:

1. are not citizens of the Trust territory of the Pacific Islands; and
2. are of good moral character, as certified by the mayor or of the municipality in which such persons have resided, provided, however that persons under the age of 16 are presumed to be of good moral character unless otherwise demonstrated; and, provided further, that no person convicted of a felony or crime of moral turpitude shall be deemed to be of good moral character unless such person shall have received a full pardon and had his civil rights restored; and
3. have been actual residents of the Northern Mariana Islands for at least five years prior to application for permanent resident status.

This law continued to be in effect from April 1, 1977, through April 23, 1981, brought into the Commonwealth Code through the CNMI's initial wholesale adoption of the Trust Territory Code. Persons who acquired permanent resident status under this law, and their immediate relatives, are the only persons considered as CNMI Permanent Residents and are members of the class designated as such by P.L. 116-24, the CNMI Long Term Residents Relief Act.

Adopted effective March 24, 1976 (which we now celebrate as Covenant Day), the Covenant established the political entity known as the CNMI, "under the sovereignty of . . . and . . . in political union with the United States of America." Control of immigration is indubitably an aspect of sovereignty of a modern nation state. The United States, however, ceded that authority to the CNMI in Section 503(a) of the Covenant. "The immigration and naturalization laws of the United States . . . presently inapplicable to the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, will not apply to the Northern Mariana Island except in the manner and to the extent made applicable to them by the Congress by law after the termination of the Trusteeship Agreement."

Section 503 of the Covenant was implemented in 1978 when the 1st Commonwealth Legislature vested the immigration authority of the CNMI in the Office of the Attorney General by enacting

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

P.L. 1-8. This did not address the permanent residency issue, and the Trust Territory law carried over into the new Commonwealth.

On April 23, 1981, in P.L. 2-17, the Second Commonwealth Legislature repealed the CNMI Permanent Residency law in its entirety. No application filed after that date would be processed. There was litigation with respect to the status of those who had applications pending on the repeal date, or who claimed a constitutional right to file applications immediately after P.L. 2-17 passed. The matter was finally resolved by the then District Court NMI Appellate Division, in favor of the pending applicants. *Sirilan v. Castro*, 1 C.R.1082 (1984).






What motivated the 2nd Commonwealth Legislature to repeal the Permanent Residency law? The justifications eerily foretell President Trump's current anti-immigration stance. As the Sirilan court summarized it, "The Committee Report to P.L. 2-17 reveals that the Legislature found the continued acceptance of foreign nationals as permanent residents to be 'politically...undesirable' and economically and socially unsound as it would burden public services, overly tax financial resources, and restrict opportunities for 'further development and advancement of the local people.' In addition, the report stated the view of the legislators that it would be wise to rewrite the old statutes in order to 'streamline' Commonwealth immigration policy." (*Sirilan v. Castro* at 1098.) Under the Sirilan ruling, the last CNMI Permanent Resident applications were processed in 1985.

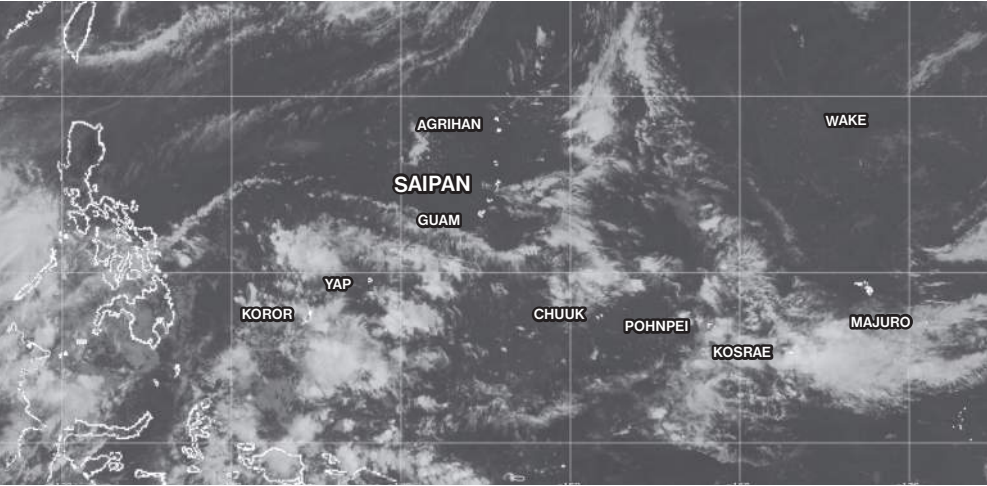
A lot of water has gone under the bridge since 1981. Our islands have grown and changed and have become increasingly diverse. Our population was 17,000 in 1980 and close to 54,000 in 2010; during the garment factory years, it was sometimes much higher. The percentage of our foreign-born population has also greatly increased. We are a different society and economy from what we were in 1981 when PL 2-17 repealed the CNMI's permanent resident statute. We can't rewrite history, but hopefully we can learn from it. Today, we have a limited but welcome safety net in the CNMI Long Term Residents Relief Act. Congressman Kilili's follow-on bill, H.R. 560, would further extend CNMI Long Term Resident status to two additional groups whose members may qualify: CW and E2C. HR 560 has passed the U.S. House of Representatives and is currently pending in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, where it was received in late February.

Here's the bottom line: "CNMI Permanent Residents" means only those people who obtained that status before the class closed in 1985. "US Permanent Residents" means only people who have obtained green cards under U.S. law. "CNMI Long Term Residents" will mean only those who qualify under P.L. 116-24 (and perhaps H.R. 560, if it ever becomes law), and whose applications are successful.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding immigration issues to the authors by email to bmailman@pticom.com or roninsaipan@gmail.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

The Weather

| 5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN | | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|--|-----|---|-----|---|-----|--|-----|
| TODAY | | WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | |
|  | |  | |  | |  | |  | |
| Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | | Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 5 to 15 mph. | | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | |
| 89° | 79° | 88° | 77° | 88° | 77° | 88° | 77° | 89° | 78° |
| YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE | | | | | | | | | |



PICTURE TIME: 8:17 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Morning showers and thunderstorms, conditions have rapidly stabilized with a significant reduction in cloud cover noted in satellite imagery. Much of the early morning showers fell over the waters, with the heaviest thunderstorms passing between Rota and Tinian. The rest of this afternoon will see fair weather and mostly sunny skies with just a small chance of thunderstorms remaining.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/


STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- ❑ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- ❑ Limiting visitors



CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - ❑ Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - ❑ Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

| MICRONESIA | | | ▲▼°F |
|---------------|---------------|-----------|------|
| Guam and Rota | Thunderstorm | 87° / 80° | |
| Palau | Thunderstorm | 87° / 77° | |
| Yap | Thunderstorm | 87° / 78° | |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorm | 88° / 80° | |
| Pohnpei | Partly Cloudy | 86° / 77° | |
| Kosrae | Thunderstorm | 87° / 77° | |
| Majuro | Thunderstorm | 86° / 80° | |

| DAY | SUNRISE | SUNSET |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| Today | 5:50 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Wednesday | 5:50 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Thursday | 5:50 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Friday | 5:51 AM | 6:51 PM |
| Saturday | 5:51 AM | 6:51 PM |

| DAY | MOONRISE | MOONSET | MOONRISE |
|-----------|----------|---------|----------|
| Today | - | 1:19 AM | 2:01 PM |
| Wednesday | - | 2:03 AM | 3:00 PM |
| Thursday | - | 2:51 AM | 4:00 PM |
| Friday | - | 3:41 AM | 5:01 PM |
| Saturday | - | 4:35 AM | 6:01 PM |

| AROUND THE GLOBE | | | ▲▼°F |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|------|
| Auckland | Partly Cloudy | 54° / 46° | |
| Beijing | Partly Cloudy | 93° / 72° | |
| Hong Kong | Thunderstorm | 90° / 82° | |
| Honolulu | Mostly Sunny | 87° / 75° | |
| London | Showers | 70° / 57° | |
| Los Angeles | Sunny | 73° / 60° | |
| Manila | Thunderstorm | 93° / 79° | |
| Melbourne | Sunny | 61° / 48° | |
| Miami | Thunderstorm | 85° / 79° | |
| New York | Thunderstorm | 80° / 69° | |
| Osaka | Partly Cloudy | 79° / 70° | |
| Paris | Mostly Sunny | 77° / 63° | |
| Busan | Thunderstorm | 77° / 66° | |
| Rome | Sunny | 88° / 68° | |
| Salem | Partly Cloudy | 91° / 73° | |
| San Francisco | Sunny | 64° / 52° | |
| Seoul | Showers | 81° / 66° | |
| Tokyo | Windy | 81° / 72° | |
| Washington, DC | Mostly Sunny | 90° / 72° | |

| TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY | | | FEET |
|----------------------------|-----------|------|------|
| 2:51 AM | HIGH TIDE | 2.20 | |
| 9:52 AM | LOW TIDE | 0.56 | |
| 3:55 PM | HIGH TIDE | 1.69 | |
| 9:22 PM | LOW TIDE | 0.98 | |

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| DEPARTURES | | | | ARRIVALS | | | |
|-------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------------------|--------|--------|---------|
| SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) | | | | GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN | | | |
| UA117 | 9:15am | 9:55am | 1, 4, 6 | UA174 | 7:30am | 8:11am | 1, 4, 6 |

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

| SAIPAN TO ROTA | | | | 1207 | 13:00 | 13:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
|------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------------|
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 1208 | 14:00 | 14:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1301.2 | 8:30AM | 9:00AM | Tues/Fri | 1209 | 15:00 | 15:15 | Daily |
| 1303 | 3:30PM | 4:00PM | Tues/Fri | 1210 | 16:00 | 16:15 | Daily |
| ROTA TO SAIPAN | | | | 1211 | 17:00 | 17:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 1212 | 18:00 | 18:15 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 3101.2 | 9:30AM | 10:00AM | Tues/Fri | | | | |
| 3103 | 4:30PM | 5:00PM | Tues/Fri | | | | |
| ROTA TO GUAM | | | | TINIAN TO SAIPAN | | | |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY |
| 3401 | 12:15 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable | 2101 | 7:30 | 7:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| GUAM TO ROTA | | | | 2102 | 8:30 | 8:45 | Daily |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 2103 | 9:30 | 9:45 | Daily |
| 4301 | 13:00 | 13:30 | Temporarily Unavailable | 2104 | 10:30 | 10:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| SAIPAN TO TINIAN | | | | 2105 | 11:30 | 11:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| FLIGHT # | DEPARTURE | ARRIVAL | FREQUENCY | 2106 | 12:30 | 12:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1201 | 7:00 | 7:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | 2107 | 13:30 | 13:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1202 | 8:00 | 8:15 | Daily | 2108 | 14:30 | 14:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1203 | 9:00 | 9:15 | Daily | 2109 | 15:30 | 15:45 | Daily |
| 1204 | 10:00 | 10:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | 2110 | 16:30 | 16:45 | Daily |
| 1205 | 11:00 | 11:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | 2111 | 17:30 | 17:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |
| 1206 | 12:00 | 12:15 | Temporarily Unavailable | 2112 | 18:30 | 18:45 | Temporarily Unavailable |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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Business

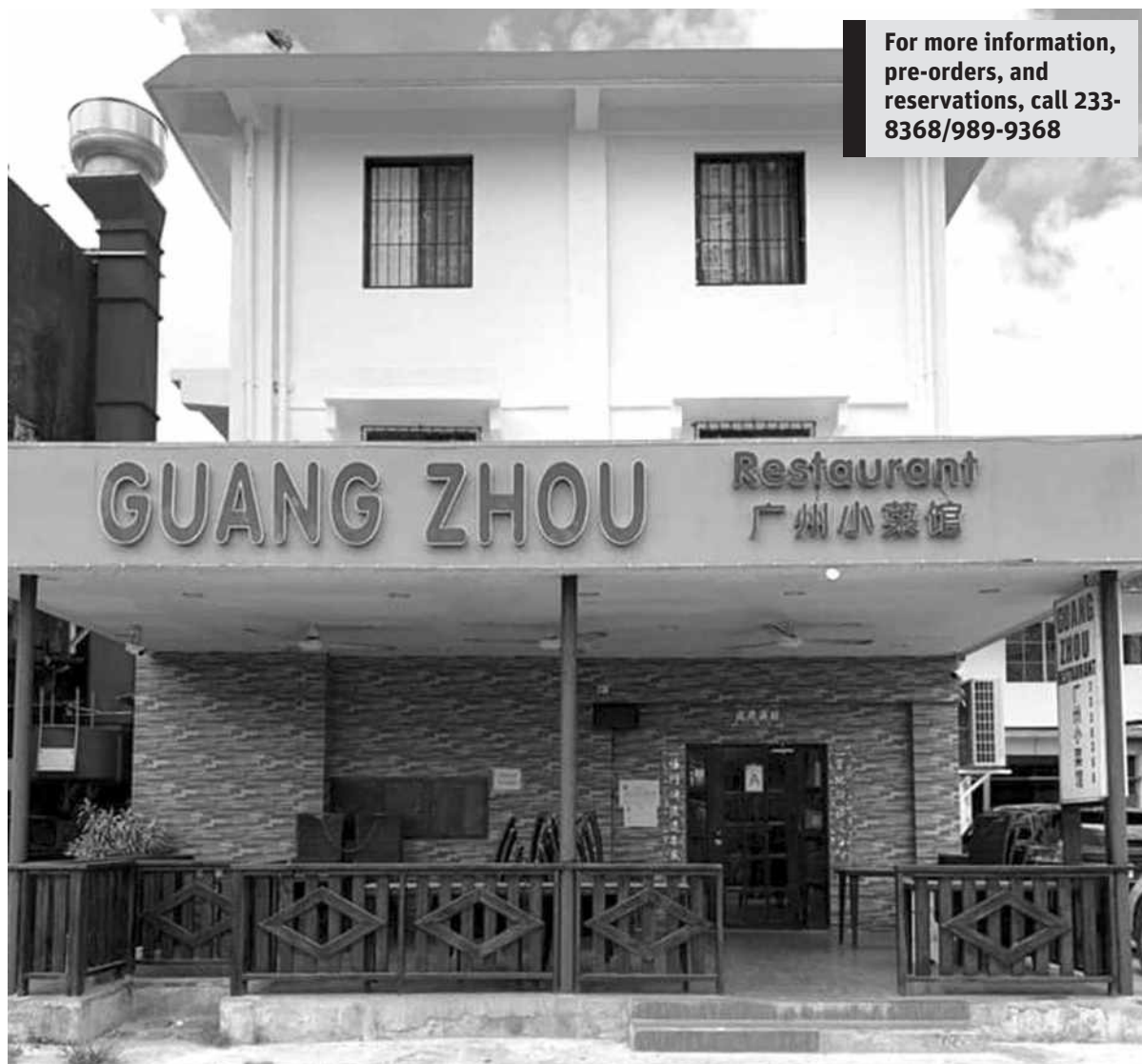
\$4 meals at Guang Zhou Restaurant

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Guang Zhou Restaurant is currently having a promotion where their best-sellers can be had for only \$4.

Supervisor Niky Wu said among the dishes under the \$4 promotion are sweet and sour pork rice, broccoli beef rice, mapo tofu rice, and spicy beef rice.

For more information, pre-orders, and reservations, call 233-8368/989-9368



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Guang Zhou Restaurant is located along Date St. in the heart of Garapan and a stone's throw away from Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.



Guang Zhou Restaurant's sweet and sour pork.

She said the promotion is an effort to bring in more customers since business has been down since the COVID-19 pandemic. Guang Zhou Restaurant was forced to shutter its doors at the end of March and reopened only in early May. "The business is not good now. It's only a fourth of what it used to be before the coronavirus. We don't have any tourists at all. ... We still have many local customers, but some also have no work and not much spending power," said Wu.

To prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Wu said all of their staff are required to wear face masks and gloves, always use hand sanitizers, and wipe down all surfaces at the restaurant with disinfectant. "We're serious in protecting not only our employees but our valued customers as well," she said.

To comply with the government's social distancing regulations, Guang Zhou Restaurant is only accepting 20 customers at a time.

As for how the restaurant came up with its name, the simple explanation is that the owner is from Guangzhou, which is a sprawling port city northwest of Hong Kong on the Pearl River in China. Guangzhou cuisine is also called Canton cuisine and is characterized by gentle spices, fresh

ingredients, and slow and careful preparation.

"Most of our food is the city's specialty," said Wu, who added that their dishes are not only liked by tourists, but by residents and the Filipino expatriate community as well.

Aside from their \$4 promotional meals, other can't-miss dishes at the restaurant are black pepper beef, steamed fish, spicy fish, salt and pepper squid, crispy fried shrimps, fatty pork, Beijing sauce pork, honey walnut shrimp, spicy chicken, and Yangzhou fried rice.

Established in 2003, Guang Zhou Restaurant is located along Date St. in the heart of Garapan and a stone's throw away from Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. It is open from 11am to 9pm. For more information, pre-orders, and reservations, call 233-8368/989-9368.



Guang Zhou Restaurant's fatty pork.



Guang Zhou Restaurant's beef broccoli.

Businesses weigh reopening—or close again—as cases rise

It's not the reopening businesses were hoping for.

After months of shutdown, restaurants, stores and even amusement parks announced their reopening with fanfare. But now that states like Texas and Arizona are seeing alarming surges in reported cases of COVID-19, businesses large and small must decide whether to keep their doors open.

In some cases, governments are pausing their reopening plans. On Friday, Texas and Arizona shut down bars except for takeout and scaled back restaurant dining capacity. Florida banned alcohol consumption at bars.

But many businesses had already taken those steps on their own, saying rising case numbers and shifting advice from state and local governments did not give them the confidence to stay open.

The Kolache Factory, which has 27 bakeries mostly in the Houston area, opened dining

rooms for two weeks before shutting them down June 19 and returning to takeout and delivery. Chief Operating Officer Dawn Nielsen was getting mixed signals from Harris County — which required masks — and the state of Texas, which didn't.

"It's a scary time. At some point you just have to grab the reins of the horse and say, 'I just have to make the decision myself and not wait for someone else to mandate what I have to do,'" Nielsen said.

Lei Low Rum and Tiki Bar in Houston reopened its 60-seat dining room at 50% capacity on June 10. But managing owner Russell Thoede said patrons didn't always observe safety measures, like staying seated and wearing masks. On June 18, Thoede closed the bar again and restarted takeout cocktail kits. His employees were relieved, he said.

Apple, which started reopening its stores May 11, has

closed at least 32 stores in hot spots like Florida and Texas. Best Buy, which opened most of its 1,000 stores last week, said it is reviewing local data and making tweaks in virus hot spots, like limiting the number of customers in the store.

In some cases, illnesses have prompted closures. Gila River Casinos closed its three locations in Phoenix on June 18 for two weeks, saying it needed to rethink operations after a security guard died a week earlier.

On June 20, McCray's Backyard Bar-B-Q and Seafood in West Palm Beach, Florida, shut its doors for 10 days after learning one of its employees might have been exposed to COVID-19. The restaurant is hiring a cleaning company and requiring its 20 employees to get tested.

In East Lansing, Michigan, Harper's Restaurant and Brewpub reopened June 8 to an exuberant college crowd.

Now it's closed again, and health officials are urging people who visited the bar to self-quarantine. As of Friday, at least 85 patrons had tested positive for COVID-19.

In some places, employees are pushing for businesses to close again. In Washtenaw County, Michigan, about an hour outside of Detroit, 1,300 servers have signed a petition asking county officials to close restaurants until COVID-19 is no longer a public health threat. They are scheduled to present the petition at a meeting on Wednesday.

"Bar culture promotes mingling, and in a tipping industry, are you going to have a fight with a customer about wearing a mask?" said one area bartender, who asked to remain anonymous because she fears her job could be impacted.

Many businesses are finding that the risks of reopening outweigh any reward from the meager foot traffic coming in

the door, said Alden Parker, an attorney and co-chair of the hospitality group at the law firm Fisher Phillips, which specializes in labor and employment law. Already, more than 250 lawsuits have been filed against U.S. businesses nationwide over coronavirus, including from employees who say they were terminated after they tested positive.

The legal landscape is unclear. Some businesses have been requiring customers and employees to sign a waiver saying they won't sue if they get sick. But whether they can be enforced varies by state and is open to debate. Employee issues will likely be covered by worker's compensation insurance. But what if a venue puts up a sign encouraging masks, then doesn't enforce it and a customer falls ill? It could be a year or two before courts sort that out, Parker said.

Advice from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention comes in the form of guidance, not requirements.

The CDC suggests businesses should immediately remove sick employees or customers and clean the immediate area after 24 hours, but it says the 24-hour wait is only "if feasible," and can be shorter.

Matt Hinton, a partner with Control Risks who specializes in crisis and resilience consulting, said companies should use government restrictions as a minimum baseline and develop their own criteria, since they may have a different risk tolerance than what governments recommend. But he said many clients have complained that it's hard to know which public officials to believe.

Aaron Post, the owner of Valkyrie cocktail bar in Tulsa, Oklahoma, reopened June 5 after being closed for 13 weeks. With no government guidelines about what to do if there is a resurgence of the virus, Post came up with his own metrics. He plans to close if the rate of positive tests hits 10% in his area; it's currently at 8%. (AP)

Nation

Trump denies briefing on reported bounties against US troops

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump on Sunday denied that he was made aware of U.S. intelligence officials' conclusions that Russia secretly offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing American troops in Afghanistan. The Trump administration was set to brief select members of Congress on the matter on Monday.

The intelligence assessments came amid Trump's push to withdraw the U.S. from Afghanistan, and suggested that Russia was making overtures to militants as the U.S. and the Taliban

were holding talks to end the long-running war. The assessment was first reported by The New York Times and then confirmed to The Associated Press by American intelligence officials and two others with knowledge of the matter.

There were conflicting reports about whether Trump was aware of Russia's actions. The intelligence officials told the AP that the president was briefed on the matter earlier this year; Trump denied that, tweeting on Sunday that neither he nor Vice President Mike Pence had been briefed. The president tweeted Sunday night that he

was just told that intelligence officials didn't report the information to him because they didn't find it credible.

The intelligence officials and others with knowledge of the matter who spoke to the AP insisted on anonymity in order to discuss the highly sensitive matter.

The White House National Security Council would not confirm the assessments, but said the U.S. receives thousands of intelligence reports daily that are subject to strict scrutiny.

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., who golfed with Trump

on Sunday, tweeted a day earlier that it is "Imperative Congress get to the bottom of recent media reports that Russian GRU units in Afghanistan have offered to pay the Taliban to kill American soldiers with the goal of pushing America out of the region."

Rep. Liz Cheney of Wyoming, the No. 3 Republican in the House, called for the White House to share more information with Congress, saying if true, lawmakers need to know "Who did know and when?" and, referring to Russian leader Vladimir Putin, "What has been done in re-

sponse to protect our forces & hold Putin accountable?"

Democratic presumptive presidential nominee Joe Biden said reports that Trump was aware of the Russian bounties would be a "truly shocking revelation" about the commander in chief and his failure to protect U.S. troops in Afghanistan and stand up to Russia.

Russia called the report "nonsense."

"This unsophisticated plant clearly illustrates the low intellectual abilities of the propagandists of American intelligence, who instead of inventing something more plausible have to make up this nonsense," the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

A Taliban spokesman said the militants "strongly reject this allegation" and are not "indebted to the beneficence of any intelligence organ or foreign country."

John Bolton, a former national security adviser who was forced out by Trump last

September and has now written a tell-all book about his time at the White House, said Sunday that "it is pretty remarkable the president's going out of his way to say he hasn't heard anything about it. One asks, why would he do something like that?"

Bolton told NBC's "Meet the Press" that he thinks the answer "may be precisely because active Russian aggression like that against the American service members is a very, very serious matter and nothing's been done about it, if it's true, for these past four or five months, so it may look like he was negligent. But, of course, he can disown everything if nobody ever told him about it."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, one of the few congressional leaders briefed on sensitive intelligence matters, told ABC's "This Week" that she had not been informed about the reported bounties and requested a report to Congress on the matter.



AP

President Donald Trump pumps his fist as he walks on the South Lawn after arriving on Marine One at the White House, Thursday, June 25, 2020, in Washington.

Mississippi surrenders Confederate symbol from state flag

JACKSON, Miss. (AP)—Mississippi will retire the last state flag in the U.S. with the Confederate battle emblem, more than a century after white supremacist legislators adopted the design a generation after the South lost the Civil War.

A broad coalition of lawmakers—Black and white, Democrat and Republican—voted Sunday for change as the state faced increasing pressure amid nationwide protests against racial injustice.

Mississippi has a 38% Black population, and critics have said for generations that it's wrong to have a flag that prominently features an emblem many condemn as racist.

Democratic Sen. David Jordan told his colleagues just before the vote that Mississippi needs a flag that unifies rather

than divides.

"Let's do this because it's the right thing to do," Jordan said.

The Senate voted 37-14 to retire the flag, hours after the House voted 91-23.

Cheers rang out in the state Capitol after the Senate vote. Some spectators wept. Legislators embraced each other, many hugging colleagues who were on the opposing side of an issue that has long divided the tradition-bound state.

Republican Gov. Tate Reeves is expected to sign the bill into law in the next few days.

Democratic Rep. Robert Johnson of Natchez choked back tears as he told reporters that he has seen white colleagues develop more empathy about how the Confederate symbol is painful to him and other African Americans.

"They began to understand

and feel the same thing that I've been feeling for 61 years of my life," Johnson said.

A commission will design a new flag that cannot include the Confederate symbol and that must have the words "In God We Trust." Voters will be asked to approve the new design in the Nov. 3 election. If they reject it, the commission will set a different design using the same guidelines, and that would be sent to voters later.

Republican House Speaker Philip Gunn, who is white, has pushed for five years to change the flag, saying the Confederate symbol is offensive.

"How sweet it is to celebrate this on the Lord's day," Gunn said.

Legislators put the Confederate emblem on the upper left corner of Mississippi flag

in 1894, as white people were squelching political power that African Americans had gained after the Civil War.

In a 2001 statewide election, voters chose to keep the flag. An increasing number of cities and all Mississippi's public universities have taken down the state flag in recent years. But until now, efforts to redesign the flag sputtered in the Republican-dominated Legislature.

That dynamic shifted as an extraordinary and diverse coalition of political, business, religious groups and sports leaders pushed for change.

At a Black Lives Matter protest outside the Mississippi Governor's Mansion in early June, thousands cheered as an organizer said the state needs to divorce itself from all Confederate symbols.

Gunman at Walmart distribution center was fired former employee

RED BLUFF, Calif (AP)—A man who drove into a Walmart distribution center in Northern California and went on a shooting rampage that left him and another man dead, and four others wounded, was fired from his job at the center last year, authorities said.

Louis Wesley Lane, 31, was fired from the distribution center near Red Bluff in February 2019 after failing to show up for work, Tehama County Assistant Sheriff Phil Johnston told a news conference early Sunday.

The violence started Saturday afternoon when a man with a semi-automatic rifle circled the parking lot four times before crashing into the lobby of the building. Lane began shooting randomly into the building and in the parking lot area, where he engaged with Red Bluff police officers who were first to get to the scene, the sheriff's office said.

Johnston said they exchanged 20 to 30 rounds before he was shot by police.

The employee who died was Martin Haro-Lozano, 45, of Orland, California. He was taken to the hospital by a sheriff's deputy due to the extent of his injuries, but later died, Johnston said. His relationship to the shooter was not immediately known.

Haro-Lozano was a 12-year employee who had family and friends working in the same facility, according to John Furner, president and CEO of Walmart U.S.

"We are shocked and heartbroken about the horrific event that occurred," he said in a statement.

The shooting victims were taken to St. Elizabeth Community Hospital and their injuries were not life-threatening, Johnston said.

Another victim was struck by the shooter's car as he drove into the building and was being treated at the hospital, he said.

Investigators have not determined a motive in the shooting, other than his prior employment at the center, Johnston said.

Some of the 200 workers inside the facility locked themselves in a room, employees told KHSL-TV.

Scott Thammakhanty, an employee at the facility's receiving center, told the Redding Record-Searchlight that he heard the shooter fire.

"It went on and on—I don't even know how many times he fired," Thammakhanty said. "I just know it was a lot."

Thammakhanty and others started running for their lives, and he saw people lying on the ground as he ran, he said.

Asia

AS VIRUS CASES CLIMB

Seoul considers new curbs

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea has reported 42 new infections of COVID-19 as infections steadily climb in the greater capital area, forcing authorities to consider stronger social restrictions.

The figures announced by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday brought the national caseload to 12,757, including 282 deaths.

Twenty-four of the new cases were reported from capital Seoul and nearby metropolitan areas, which have been at the center of a virus resurgence since late May. At least 12 of the new cases were linked to international arrivals as the virus continues to strengthen its hold elsewhere around the world.

South Korea was reporting hundreds of new cases a day in late February and early March following a major surge surrounding the southeast city of Daegu, where the majority of infections were linked to a single church congregation with thousands of members.

But while health authorities had used aggressive testing and contact tracing to contain the outbreak in that region, they are having a much harder time tracking recent transmissions in the Seoul metropolitan area, where about half of the country's 51 million people live. With people increasingly venturing out in public, new clusters are tied to a variety of places.

Health Minister Park Neung-hoo during a briefing

Sunday afternoon announced that the government is prepared to implement stronger social distancing measures if the epidemic continues to grow. He said the strongest measures—including banning all gatherings of more than 10 people, shutting schools, halting professional sports, and restricting operations of non-essential businesses—will be enforced if the daily increase in infections doubles more than two times during a span of a week.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

—Philippine officials say authorities in a central village may face criminal or administrative complaints for allowing a street parade and dance despite a strict coronavirus lockdown. Mayor Edgar Labella of Cebu city said officials of Basak village have been ordered to explain why the religious fiesta in honor of St. John the Baptist was held Saturday despite a prohibition against public gatherings. Performers in native wear and face masks danced during the night procession, which drew a large crowd. While the Philippines has eased quarantine restrictions in most regions, Cebu city is under a strict lockdown following a spike in infections. The Philippines has more than 35,000 virus case, including 1,244 deaths.

—Health authorities are using a saliva test while working against a coronavirus outbreak in Australia's second-largest

city. The test appears to be less accurate than the nasal swab but is a more comfortable option. Victoria state Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said the situation in Melbourne was "a genuine challenge now," in part because the better situation elsewhere in Australia made it harder to tell people to stay vigilant. Victorian Health Minister Jenny Mikakos said on Monday that 75 people had tested positive in the state in the latest 24 hours. She said the saliva test was first used in a Melbourne suburban hot spot on Sunday. The saliva tests in research were only 87% as accurate as the nasal swab because saliva contained less virus than the throat, said Sharon Lewin, director of the Doherty Institute in Melbourne, which developed the saliva test being used.

—China reported a further decline in new cases, with just 12. Seven of those were locally spread cases in Beijing, where nearly 8.3 million people have been tested in recent weeks. The number of new cases in the city was down by half from the day before, the National Health Commission reported. Beijing temporarily shut a huge wholesale food market where the virus spread widely earlier this month, re-closed schools and locked down some neighborhoods. Anyone leaving Beijing is required to have a negative virus test result procured within the previous seven days.

China reviews heavily criticized HK security bill

BEIJING (AP)—China's legislature on Sunday began reviewing a controversial national security bill for Hong Kong that critics worldwide say will severely compromise human rights in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The National People's Congress Standing Committee took up the bill at the start of a three-day session, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported. China has said it is determined to enact the law, and its passage is expected by Tuesday.

The U.S. says it will respond by ending favorable trading terms granted to the former British colony after it passed to Chinese control in 1997. The Senate on Thursday unanimously approved a bill to impose sanctions on businesses and individuals—including the police—that undermine Hong Kong's autonomy or restrict freedoms promised to the city's residents.

The Senate bill targets police

units that have cracked down on Hong Kong protesters, as well as Chinese Communist Party officials responsible for imposing the national security law. The measure also would impose sanctions on banks that do business with entities found to violate the law.

Last week, a former United Nations human rights chief and eight former U.N. special envoys urged the body's secretary-general to appoint a special envoy on Hong Kong over what they said is a pending "humanitarian tragedy." Britain has said it would grant passports to as many as 3 million of Hong Kong's 7.8 million people.

Beijing has denounced all such moves as gross interference in its internal affairs.

The law would criminalize secession, subversion of state power, terrorist activities and colluding with foreign forces to endanger national security. Critics say Hong Kong's legal

statutes already account for such matters and that Beijing is determined to use the law to pursue political opponents.

The central government in Beijing also would set up a national security office in Hong Kong to collect and analyze intelligence and deal with criminal cases related to national security.

Few details have been released, but it appears that Beijing will have ultimate power over government appointments, further reducing the relative independence it promised to Hong Kong in a 1984 joint declaration with Britain that is considered an international treaty.

The measures have been widely seen as the most significant erosion to date of Hong Kong's British-style rule of law and high degree of autonomy that China promised Hong Kong would have under a "one country, two systems" principle.

World

World hits coronavirus milestones

ROME (AP)—The world surpassed two sobering coronavirus milestones Sunday—500,000 confirmed deaths, 10 million confirmed cases—and hit another high mark for daily new infections as governments that attempted reopenings continued to back-track and warn that worse news could be yet to come.

"COVID-19 has taken a very swift and very dangerous turn in Texas over just the past few weeks," said Gov. Greg Abbott, who allowed businesses to start reopening in early May but on Friday shut down bars and limited restaurant dining amid a spike in cases.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom rolled back reopenings of bars in seven counties, including Los Angeles. He ordered them to close immediately and urged eight other counties to issue local health orders mandating the same.

More Florida beaches will be closing again to avoid further spread of the new coronavirus as officials try to tamp down on large gatherings amid a spike in COVID-19 cases. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis said interactions among young people are driving the surge.

"Caution was thrown to the wind and so we are where we are," DeSantis said.

South Africa's health minister warned that the country's current surge of cases is expected to rapidly increase in the coming weeks and push hospitals to the limit. Health Minister Zwelini Mkhize said the current rise in infections has come from people who "moved back into the workplace."

New clusters of cases at a Swiss nightclub and in the central English city of Leicester showed that the virus was still circulating widely in Europe, though not with the rapidly growing infection rate seen in parts of the U.S., Latin America and India.

Poland and France, meanwhile, attempted a step toward normalcy as they held elections that had been delayed by the virus.

Wearing mandatory masks, social distancing in lines and carrying their own pens to sign voting registers, French voters cast ballots in a second round of municipal elections. Poles also wore masks and used hand sanitizer, and some in virus-hit areas were told to mail in their ballots.

"I didn't go and vote the first time around because I



Workers collect the coffins of people that have been recently cremated amid the new coronavirus pandemic, at the La Recoleta cemetery in Santiago, Chile, Sunday, June 28, 2020.

am elderly and I got scared," said Fanny Barouh as she voted in a Paris school.

In Texas, Abbott appeared with Vice President Mike Pence, who cut campaign events from upcoming visits to Florida and Arizona because of rising virus cases in those states.

Pence praised Abbott for both his decision to reopen the state, and to roll back the reopening plans.

"You flattened the curve here in Texas ... but about two weeks ago something changed," Pence said.

Pence urged people to wear masks when unable to practice social distancing. He and Abbott wore face masks as they entered and left the room, taking them off while speaking to reporters.

Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar, meanwhile, defended the fact that President Donald Trump has rarely worn a mask in public, saying he doesn't have to follow his own administration's guidance because as a leader of the free world he's tested regularly and is in "very different circumstances than the rest of us."

Addressing spikes in reported coronavirus cases in some states, Azar said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that people "have to take ownership" of their own behaviors by social distancing and wearing masks if possible.

A reported tally Sunday from Johns Hopkins University researchers said the death toll from the coronavirus pandemic had topped 500,000.

About 1 in 4 of those deaths — more than 125,000 — have been reported in the U.S. The country with the next highest death toll is Brazil, with more than 57,000, or about 1 in 9.

The true death toll from the virus, which first emerged in China late last year, is widely believed to be significantly

higher. Experts say that especially early on, many victims died of COVID-19 without being tested for it.

To date, more than 10 million confirmed cases have been reported globally. About a quarter of them have been reported in the U.S.

The World Health Organization announced another daily record in the number of confirmed coronavirus cases across the world — topping over 189,000 in a single 24-hour period. The tally eclipses the previous record a week earlier at over 183,000 cases, showing case counts continue to progress worldwide.

Overall the U.S. still has far and away the most total cases. At more than 2,450,000 — roughly twice that of Brazil. The number of actual cases worldwide is much higher.

New York, once the nation's pandemic epicenter, is now "on the exact opposite end," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said in an interview with "Meet the Press."

The state reported five new virus deaths Saturday, its lowest reported daily death toll since March 15. During the state's peak pandemic in April, nearly 800 people were dying every day. New York still leads the nation in COVID-19 deaths with nearly 25,000.

In the state of Washington, Gov. Jay Inslee put a hold on plans to move counties to the fourth phase of his reopening plan as cases continue to increase. But in Hawaii, the city of Honolulu announced that campgrounds will reopen for the first time in three months with limited permits to ensure social distancing.

Britain's government, meanwhile, is considering whether a local lockdown is needed for the central English city of Leicester amid reports about a spike in COVID-19 among its Asian community. It would be Britain's first local lockdown.

Overdrive

By MARK PHELAN
DETROIT FREE PRESS

A new version of Nissan's best-selling Rogue compact SUV goes on sale this fall with advanced new driver assistance features including adaptive cruise control that can slow the vehicle in anticipation of oncoming curves and exit ramps.

As it enters its third generation, the 2021 Rogue gets a bit shorter and adopts boxy new styling that's a departure from the outgoing model, which was Nissan's No. 1 seller and one of America's leaders with 350,447 sales in 2019. The Rogue competes with SUVs like the Chevrolet Equinox, Ford Escape, Honda CR-V, Toyota RAV4 and VW Tiguan.

The new model gets an upright grille with Nissan's signature V-shape chrome trim, a flat hood and blacked out pillars to create the impression of a floating roof.

The tail is squared off to pre-

serve cargo space, despite the fact that the 2021 Rogue is 1.5 inches shorter and 0.2 inches less tall than the outgoing model.

Prices, fuel economy and some other figures will be announced closer to when the 2021 Rogue goes on sale.

More access for child seats

The family friendly features include a proximity sensitive key that can be programmed to open all doors when a front or rear handle is touched.

The rear doors open to nearly 90 degrees for easy access, particularly to child seats, which can be secured in any of the three rear seating positions. That means you can have a child seat in the middle, between two older children, conveniently installing the baby as a peacekeeper between rival siblings.

Three-zone climate control allows rear passengers to set their own temperature and fan speed, while intelligent remote start can heat or cool the rear

seat before you strap the little ones in.

Heated rear seats are optional, but door-mounted cup holders big enough for a 32-ounce Yeti container are standard.

In addition to Apple CarPlay and Android Auto with smart phones plugged into USB ports, wireless CarPlay, which uses the vehicle's Wi-Fi, is available. Wireless charging is also an available.

The cargo area features a mild jug-size bin by the wheel wells and a wider opening to accommodate large objects.

A motion-sensing power tailgate is available.

Cruise control that can prevent tickets

Driver assistance features include navigation-linked adaptive cruise control and traffic sign recognition, which can be programmed to slow the vehicle from its set speed in response to signs for lower speed limits. The driver can override that—in inactive con-

struction zones, for instance—or set the ACC to maintain the set speed regardless of signs.

The system can also reduce speed on demanding curves, highway interchanges or as it approaches a programmed exit. The navigation system works in concert with Nissan's ProPilot system, which helps keep the Rogue centered in its lane, but requires the driver to have their hands on the steering wheel at all times.

The nav system offers both Google and Waze maps, and the ability to switch from one to the other with a spoken command.

Engine? Yeah, it has one

The Rogue is squarely aimed at family buyers, so there's just one drivetrain a 181-horsepower 2.5L four-cylinder engine linked to a continuously variable automatic transmission. The engine and transmission both get tweaks for the new model, including new programming and reduced friction.

Front- and all-wheel drive

NUTS & BOLTS

2021 Nissan Rogue

■ Price: TBA
■ On sale fall 2020
■ Front- or all-wheel drive four-door compact SUV
■ Engine: 2.5L Four-cylinder
■ Output: 181 hp @ 6,000 rpm; 181 pound-feet of torque @ 3,600 rpm
■ Transmission: Continuously variable automatic
■ EPA: TBA
■ Wheelbase: 106.5 inches
■ Length: 183 inches
■ Width: 72.4 inches
■ Height: 66.9 inches
■ Curb weight: TBA
Assembled in Smyrna, Tennessee, and Kyushu, Japan
Available features include:
■ 17-, 18- or 19-inch wheels
■ Head-up display
■ 9-inch touch screen

■ Apple CarPlay
■ Android Auto Wireless charging
■ Wireless CarPlay
■ Bose audio
■ Navigation
■ Wi-Fi hotspot 360° monitor
■ High-def video rearview mirror
■ Quilted aniline leather upholstery
■ Available safety and driver assistance features
■ Front collision warning
■ Automatic front braking with pedestrian detection
■ Rear automatic braking
■ Blind spot alert
■ Cross traffic alert
■ Lane departure warning
■ Automatic high beams
■ Traffic sign recognition
■ Adaptive cruise control
■ Navigation-linked cruise control
■ Driver attention alert

are available. The AWD system gets a new electro-hydraulic clutch that responds to wheel slip and changing traction more quickly. AWD models get Vehicle Motion

Control, which can apply the brake to any individual wheel if the steering angle, acceleration and braking indicate the Rogue isn't going where the driver has it pointed.

AUTO REVIEW:

2021 Nissan Rogue

makes room for car seats, adds clever navigation



(NISSAN/TNS)
2021 Nissan Rogue.

Under the Hood: Troubleshooting a misfire indication

Q: I've been thinking about trading in my 2008 Silverado for a new truck. Just the other day my check engine light came on. I used the OBD scanner I bought to see what the code was. It said cylinder #1 misfire. This is creeping me out, as it sounds serious. The truck only has 80,000 miles on it, so I'm thinking the engine must be OK. Now I'm thinking I should really get going on a new truck, but this will make it hard to trade in or sell the truck. Any suggestions on what I can do to see what's causing this?

A: Let's start with an easy

thing first. Your 5.3L engine utilizes a "coil near plug" ignition system. It's similar to a coil on plug system except that the coils are mounted about 10 inches from the spark plugs (they're in a hot area due to the nearby exhaust manifold) and use a short spark plug wire to connect each coil to its plug.

Have you felt an intermittent or continuous thumping/roughness from the engine, typically under load? If so, that's the misfire, and continued driving under this condition should be avoided, to prevent damage to the catalytic converter, and if severe, even-

tually to that cylinder's piston rings/bore. The OBD-II system's misfire monitor is quite sensitive, it's possible the misfiring was infrequent/ slight enough to not be noticed.

Since the coils are so easy to access/remove, how about swapping the #1 coil with its #3 neighbor? (Driver's side cylinders are: 1,3,5,7, from front to rear.) For now, leave the plug wire and spark plugs in their original positions. Take a look also at the terminals of the #1 plug wire. If they're clean and bright, the wire is likely OK.

Check your scan tool to see

if a freeze frame is available; this will indicate the exact driving conditions occurring when the PCM identified the cylinder #1 misfire for the first time. Next, clear the stored diagnostic trouble code and drive the truck as possible to mimic the freeze frame driving conditions. It may take some time, perhaps a few days or more to see another misfire (actually a certain number of crankshaft speed fluctuations per 200 engine revolutions) depending on fault severity.

I'm hoping you'll eventually see a cylinder #3 misfire code. When the code follows

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
Tribune News Service

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at bradbergholdt@gmail.com; he cannot make personal replies.



a swapped coil, the coil is the problem! A likely cause is an insulation fault allowing spark to leak to ground rather than jumping the more difficult spark plug gap. Replacement coils are \$35-ish apiece.

Should the #1 cylinder misfire reoccur try swapping the #1 plug and wire to the #3 cylinder, clear codes, and try again. If a #3 misfire

then occurs, I'd replace all spark plugs and that wire—if need be.

If a #1 misfire code reappears after coil, plug and wire have been swapped, it's time for professional diagnosis. Possible causes are a dirty fuel injector, or in rare cases, an engine mechanical or active fuel management fault. I'm betting on the coil!

Life & Style

Italy honors, remembers virus dead with Donizetti's Requiem

ROME (AP)—Italy bid farewell to its coronavirus dead on Sunday with a haunting Requiem concert performed at the entrance to the cemetery of Bergamo, the hardest-hit province in the onetime epicenter of the outbreak in Europe.

President Sergio Mattarella was the guest of honor, and said his presence made clear that all of Italy was bowing down to honor Bergamo's dead, "the thousands of men and women killed by a sickness that is still greatly unknown and continues to threaten the world."

To respect social distancing rules, the guest list for the outdoor evening concert was limited to Mattarella and mayors of Bergamo's 243 cities acting as representatives of their communities. RAI state television, which broadcast the concert live, said a few health care workers and representative of families who lost loved ones to the pandemic were also invited.

Aside from the soloists and conductor, masks were omnipresent including for the chorus, and the wind instruments were arranged behind



Italian President Sergio Mattarella, center, speaks in front of Bergamo's cemetery, Sunday, June 28, 2020. AP

Plexiglas. The orchestra performed the unfinished Requiem funeral Mass of Bergamo native Gaetano Donizetti, one of Italy's most important 19th century composers.

Bergamo recorded its first positive case Feb. 23 and by the end of March had regis-

tered a 571% increase in excess deaths compared to the five-year monthly average. Images in mid-March of an army convoy hauling caskets away because Bergamo's cemetery and crematoriums were full came to epitomize the horrific toll of the virus in Italy's north.

Many of the more than 6,000 Bergamo dead never had a funeral celebrated in their honor, depriving their families of the chance to say goodbye. Mattarella said he hoped the Requiem event would help them remember their loved ones, even as Italy takes stock about what went wrong in Bergamo and beyond as the region's health care system was overwhelmed by the tsunami of sick.

Daytime Emmys: 'The Young and the Restless' wins best drama

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Young and the Restless" won best drama at the first virtual Daytime Emmys along with three acting trophies on Friday night, with some winners speaking out about racial injustice.

Ellen DeGeneres accepted the trophy for best entertainment talk show for her self-titled program.

"I intend to use the next two years of my show as a plat-

form for change, to amplify voices of Black people and people of color and to educate my audience," she said from home. "More than ever, I feel like this is a responsibility to effect change."

CBS' "The Young and the Restless," whose co-creator Lee Philip Bell died in February at age 91, earned four other trophies in technical categories.

Jason Thompson, who plays Billy Abbott on "The Young and the Restless," won his first Daytime Emmy for lead actor in a drama series. He becomes the third actor who has played the part to win. David Tom did so in 2000, and Billy Miller won in 2010, 2013 and 2014. Thompson had been nominated five previous times for his stint on "General Hospital," but didn't win.

'Mulan' follows 'Tenet' to August, ending Hollywood's summer

NEW YORK (AP)—Hollywood's hopes for salvaging its summer season have effectively ended after the releases of both Christopher Nolan's "Tenet" and the Walt Disney Co.'s live-action reboot of "Mulan" were again delayed.

With reported cases of the

Rolling Stones threaten to sue Trump over using their songs

LONDON (AP)—The Rolling Stones are threatening President Donald Trump with legal action for using their songs at his rallies despite cease-and-desist directives.

The Stones said in a statement Sunday that their legal team is working with music rights organization BMI to stop use of their material in Trump's reelection campaign.

"The BMI have notified the Trump campaign on behalf of the Stones that the unauthorized use of their songs

will constitute a breach of its licensing agreement," the Stones said. "If Donald Trump disregards the exclusion and persists, then he would face a lawsuit for breaking the embargo and playing music that has not been licensed."

The Trump campaign team didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

The Stones had complained during Trump's 2016 campaign about the use of their music to fire up his conservative base at rallies.

World leaders, stars unite at event aimed at fighting virus

LONDON (AP)—A summit that included a star-studded virtual concert hosted by Dwayne Johnson has raised nearly \$7 billion in cash and loan guarantees to assist the poor around the globe whose lives have been upended by the coronavirus pandemic.

Global Citizen said its summit with world leaders had raised \$1.5 billion to help COVID-19 efforts in poor countries, along with a promise of 250 million doses of a vaccine for those nations if one is suc-

cessfully developed.

The group said it had secured \$5.4 billion in loans and guarantees from the European Commission and the European Investment Bank to support fragile economies worldwide.

The event included a Johnson-hosted concert with performances by Jennifer Hudson, Miley Cyrus, Coldplay and Chloe x Halle. Cyrus performed The Beatles' "Help!" in an empty stadium and Hudson performed "Where Peaceful Waters Flow" from a boat in Chicago.

Boyfriend's sudden ghosting causes hurt and confusion

DEAR ABBY: I am dealing with the worst heart-break ever. I don't know what I did to make my boyfriend stop liking me. He won't talk to me or text me back, and now he has blocked me on Facebook. One minute he said that he would always hang out with me and the next he told me to stop messaging him and blocked me. All of this has made me go out of control, and now I want to hate on everyone. How can I stop this awful hurt?

LOVE HURTS IN OREGON

DEAR LOVE HURTS: Before I answer that question, I want to weigh in on your signature, "Love Hurts." What I need to impress upon you is, love DOESN'T hurt. Real love makes people feel BETTER.

It's time to stop asking yourself what you did wrong to be getting the treatment he is doling out. Allow me an educated guess: He may feel guilty because he met someone else and doesn't have the courage to own up to it. Time will tell if I'm right.

The way to soothe this ache and refrain from lashing out at others would be to remember they are blameless. By taking your pain out on them, you are isolating only yourself. Get rid of any mementos that remind you of him. If a song reminds you of him, don't play it again. Keep yourself busy. Focus on other things and talk with your friends and family about your feelings. If you do, you will soon realize that

others have experienced the same disappointment you have. And, above all, remember that although this experience may have been romantic for a while, it has run its course.

DEAR ABBY: I am at my wits' end with my husband. I have a vision impairment as a result of ocular cancer, and he refuses to stop making fun of me about it. He teases me constantly about being blind, about not being able to read, and about how bad my eyes are.

My eyes ARE very bad, some days much worse than others, but I'm not totally blind. And, Abby, I can read -- just not the way I used to. When I tell him it hurts my feelings, he either gets angry at me for being "too sensitive" or brushes it off because he's "just being honest."

He is very religious, and I have thought about reaching out to his pastor about this because it bothers me so much, but I'm agnostic and don't have a relationship with him. It hurts me, but it's almost worse because our daughter watches it, and I don't want her to think it's OK for her daddy to bully me like this.

CHALLENGED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR CHALLENGED: You are NOT too sensitive, and your husband is NOT just being honest! He may be punishing you because you had the nerve to get ocular cancer, or he may simply have a sadistic streak. This is not how

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



good Christians behave; it is how hypocrites do.

That you are an agnostic—many intelligent and pious individuals are, by the way—should not stop you from having a conversation with your husband's pastor. However, even if the pastor were to craft a sermon on the subject, I doubt it would change your husband's behavior. If you are going to continue in this marriage, you must find a way to change the way you react to the mistreatment you are receiving. Perhaps once he finds he can't get the reaction he's looking for, he will stop.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



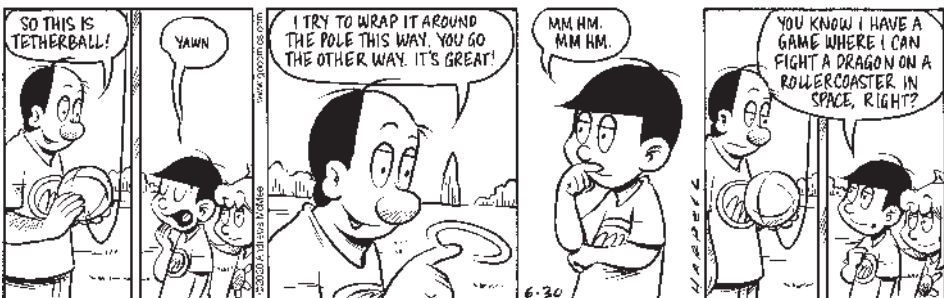
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Grouch
- 5 Coach
- 8 Roller coaster
- 12 Kitten's sound
- 13 Marsh
- 14 Deserve
- 15 Downright
- 17 Idle
- 18 Profit
- 19 Black birds
- 21 Prefix with -plasm
- 24 Delhi dress
- 25 Traditional tales
- 26 Instrument made from pipes
- 30 Ms. Thurman
- 31 Punches
- 32 Yank's foe
- 33 Sled dog breed

DOWN

- 1 Tax prep
- 2 Barbecue seasoning
- 3 MGM motto
- 4 "Jane Eyre" author
- 5 Border on
- 6 Decay
- 7 Info on
- 8 Cotton pest
- 9 Tortoise's opponent
- 10 Ireland
- 11 Letter extras (Abbr.)
- 16 Zodiac cat
- 20 Barks
- 21 Jack
- 22 "Arrive-derci —"
- 23 Exam format
- 24 Fry lightly
- 26 Word on a coin
- 27 Web address
- 28 Try out
- 29 Online auction site
- 31 Lewd material
- 34 Largest U.S. state
- 35 Italy's continent
- 37 Scratch
- 38 Attire
- 39 One of HOMES
- 40 For fear that
- 41 Despot
- 44 Employ
- 45 Swiss canton
- 46 Sun-bather's goal
- 47 Storm center

Solution time: 22 mins.

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | S | P | S | M | E | A | R | M | O | P |
| C | H | E | H | E | N | C | E | A | G | E |
| H | Y | A | C | I | N | H | S | R | E | A |
| B | I | G | M | A | C | S | N | A | G | E |
| E | R | A | Z | E | D | R | O | S | S | |
| D | A | R | N | S | O | S | E | L | I | E |
| E | N | D | I | S | L | E | C | N | A | |
| E | G | A | D | E | D | I | S | O | N | |
| B | E | N | E | U | R | S | N | | | |
| E | L | I | D | A | F | F | O | D | I | L |
| A | L | A | I | N | U | I | T | | | |
| D | E | S | S | O | R | T | S | | | |

Yesterday's answer 6-30

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Michael Phelps, 35; Monica Potter, 49; Mike Tyson, 54; David Alan Grier, 64.

Happy Birthday: Find something you love to do, and enjoy the process of discovering, developing and completing something that makes you feel accomplished. Going through a change is never easy for you emotionally, but if you have something to do that eases stress or takes your mind off the harsher realities of everyday life, you will find the happiness you deserve this year. Your numbers are 9, 14, 20, 26, 31, 47, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): An unusual proposal will turn out to be better than anticipated. Don't rule out a suggestion before giving it a chance. Start small, and let your plans develop into something big. Build a strong base, and achieve long-lasting success. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make the changes that suit you best, and keep moving forward, regardless of what others decide to do. It's up to you to control what happens and to make time to get your ideas up and running. Don't fold under pressure. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Put your head down, focus on what you want to achieve and keep moving until you reach your destination. Discipline and hard work will help you gain recognition for your accomplishments. Reward yourself with something that makes you feel special. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A conversation you have with someone you used to work with will lead to an interesting prospect. Elaborate on what you feel you can contribute to a new project that excites you. A personal gain is heading in your direction. ★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stay centered and calm. Refuse to let what others do or say bother you. Follow your own path, and you will be happy with the results you get. Personal improvements and growth will help you build a healthy attitude and confidence. ★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Bring up issues that you want to resolve. The sooner you can put things in perspective, the easier it will be to explore your next move. Don't let personal emotions interfere with making the right decision professionally. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Say less in order to avoid a dispute. Concentrate on achieving what you set out to do and putting your best foot forward. A personal pick-me-up will recharge your internal battery and prepare you to take on whatever comes your way. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Learn from your mistakes. Head into the future with the confidence that you are ready to reach your objective. Leave no stone unturned, and make it clear that you know exactly what you want and how to go about reaching your goal. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll do well if you work from home. Added discipline will help you go above and beyond the call of duty. A sense of accomplishment will give you reason to celebrate with someone special. Personal gain looks promising. ★★

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 4 | | | 3 | | | | | 2 |
| | | 6 | 8 | | | 3 | | |
| 2 | | | 7 | | | | | 1 |
| | | | 3 | 5 | 6 | | | |
| 1 | 3 | | 6 | | | 2 | 5 | |
| | | 5 | 1 | 4 | | | | |
| 5 | | | | 6 | | | | 3 |
| | 1 | | 7 | | 5 | | | |
| 9 | | | 1 | | | | | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★

6/30

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 6 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 |
| 1 | 7 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 2 | 4 | 9 |
| 4 | 8 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 2 |
| 3 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 | 8 | 4 | 7 | 5 |
| 7 | 5 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 6 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 4 |
| 5 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| 2 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 1 | 3 |

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Indulge in something you love to do, or spend time with someone who brings out the best in you. A change at home will make your life simpler and encourage you to spend more time doing the things you enjoy most. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Emotional interference can be expected when dealing with friends, relatives or neighbors. Stay calm, and focus on what you can do to improve your environment, the way you look and how best to protect the ones you love. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Channel your energy into a creative project that consumes you mentally and emotionally. It will help you put people and situations that are annoying you out of mind. Distancing yourself from turmoil will give it a chance to dissipate. ★★

Birthday Baby: You are demonstrative, charismatic and original. You are persistent and industrious.

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ITALIAN REGIONS & STATES

Solution: 14 letters

I A V A O N E G T U R I N N E
O T N I C A I N I D R A S O N
Y R S O T P A L E R M O E T I
L E A A R L E H C R A M N O D
A O L S T E M O B Y I A A R U
Z E M L E S V M D L L A T L L
I A M R A P O R I I I A A U A
O T R E N E V A A M N F F C A S
O R I R A B R A A R E C I I P
Z E A N M O I P I C A U L C E
Z N I O M R M U Y L I C I S Z
U T L A B A L L M O L I S E I
R I G M C I L I G U R I A R A
B N U A I R B A L A C E B B L
A O P I E D M O N T R E N T O

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6/30

Abruzzo, Aosta, Apulia, Asti, Bari, Basilicata, Brescia, Calabria, Campania, Cefalù, Emilia Romagna, Friuli, Genoa, La Spezia, Lazio, Liguria, Lombardy, Lucca, Marche, Milan, Molise, Naples, Noto, Palermo, Parma, Pesaro, Piedmont, Puglia, Rome, Sardinia, Sicily, Trentino, Trento, Turin, Udine, Umbria, Valley, Veneto, Verona

Yesterday's Answer: Spectrum

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 40, 42, and 44 through 58 or on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Patriots sign Newton to replace Brady



BOSTON

(AP)—The New England Patriots have reached an agreement with free-agent quarterback Cam Newton, bringing in the 2015 NFL Most Valuable Player to help the team move on from three-time MVP Tom Brady, a person with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press.

The one-year deal is worth up to \$7.5 million with incentives, the person said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss it publicly. A Patriots spokesman said the team had nothing to announce Sunday night. The signing was first reported by ESPN.

"I'm as excited as I don't what right now!!" Newton posted on Instagram "All praise to God!! Dropping content tomorrow!! I hope you're ready!! Let's go Pats."

The Patriots had been heading to training camp with 2019 fourth-round draft choice Jarrett Stidham as the heir apparent to Brady, who led the team to six Super Bowl championships since 2001 but signed with Tampa Bay this offseason. Stidham appeared in three games last season, completing two passes for 14 yards with one interception.

The only other experienced quarterback on the defending AFC East champions' roster was 34-year-old Brian Hoyer, who has started 38 games in an 11-year career with seven NFL teams, including the Patriots twice.

A three-time Pro Bowl selection who was the league's top player in 2015, Newton remains the NFL's all-time leader in touchdowns rushing by a quarterback. He had one year remaining on a five-year, \$103.8 million contract, but the Panthers saved \$19.1 million under the salary cap by releasing him on March 24.



AP
In this Aug. 22, 2019 file photo, Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton (1) is sacked by New England Patriots defensive tackle Adam Butler (70) in the first half of an NFL preseason game in Foxborough, Mass.

and lost 34-13.

When the taping became known last season, the team said at the time a three-person crew producing a web series titled "Do Your Job" "inappropriately filmed the field from the press box" as part of a feature on the scouting department.

The filming took place "without specific knowledge of league rules," the statement said.

Also, the team's statement last season said that while they were granted credentials for the crew from the Browns, "our failure to inform the Bengals and the league was an unintended oversight."

When confronted, the team said the crew "immediately turned over all footage to the league and cooperated fully."

At the time, Belichick said neither he nor his coaching staff had watched any of the video footage.

"I personally have never viewed any video footage at all, anything that those production people have done, other than what's shown on public television or something like that," Belichick said in December.

Previously, New England was fined \$250,000 and lost a first-round draft pick in 2007 for violating NFL rules against using video to steal signals in a scandal dubbed "Spygate." Belichick was also fined \$500,000.

Spygate fueled a distrust of the Patriots that persisted when the team was accused of illegally deflating the footballs used in the 2015 AFC championship game.

The 31-year-old Newton was the No. 1 overall pick in the 2011 draft after leading Auburn to a national championship and winning the Heisman Trophy. He helped the Panthers reach the playoffs four times, including the Super Bowl in 2015.

The Panthers finished 15-1 that season and Newton won league MVP honors after throwing for 3,837 and 35 touchdowns and rushing for 636 yards and 10 TDs. But he was criticized after Carolina's 24-10 loss to the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl for not jumping on a loose ball late in

the game and cutting his post-game news conference short.

After missing the postseason in 2016, the Panthers returned after going 11-5 the next year, losing to the New Orleans Saints in the wild-card round. More problematic, a shoulder injury severely hampered his throwing in 2018; after starting 6-2, the Panthers lost their next seven games.

Newton had surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff before the 2019 season. But he injured his foot in a brief appearance in the third preseason game against New England; he played only two games last season before

being placed on injured reserve with a Lis Franc fracture.

Newton has been rehabbing ever since, posting several workout videos on Instagram. But because of the coronavirus, he hasn't had a chance to meet with other teams to show he's healthy.

In nine seasons, he has completed 2,371 passes for 29,041 yards and 182 touchdowns with 108 interceptions. He has also run for 4,806 yards and 58 scores.

\$1.1M fine slapped on Pats

The Patriots have been fined \$1.1 million by the NFL for

inappropriately filming the Cincinnati Bengals' sideline during a game last season.

On Sunday, the league also took away a third-round pick in the 2021 draft.

Also, the team's production crew will not be allowed to shoot any games in the 2020 season.

ESPN first reported the penalties. NFL spokesman Michael Signora confirmed the discipline to The Associated Press.

The filming occurred at the Bengals game at Cleveland on Dec. 8 of last season. The Bengals hosted the Patriots the following week



CROMWELL, Conn.

(AP)—Dustin Johnson won the Travelers Championship on Sunday to end a long drought and extend his career-long season victory streak to 13.

Johnson closed with a 3-under 67 for a one-stroke victory over Kevin Streelman at fan-free TPC River Highlands. Johnson last won in Mexico City in March 2019.

"I'm definitely proud of myself for continuing the streak and I want to keep it going," Johnson said. "It was a long time between wins, though, and, so, hopefully it won't be that long for the next one."

Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus each won in 17 consecutive years. Johnson failed to win in 2014, but is given credit for winning in the 2013-14 season from his victory in the fall of 2013 in Shanghai. The tour changed to a wrap-around season in 2013.

Johnson wins Travelers to extend career-long season streak

Johnson tapped in for par on the par-4 18th, raised his ball to acknowledge the smattering of applause from course workers, officials and reporters, the only in-person witnesses allowed because of the coronavirus pandemic.

He finished at 19-under 261 for his 21st PGA Tour title. Streelman also shot 67. Streelman, who made seven straight birdies to win at TPC River Highlands in 2014, had

a 37-foot birdie try on 18 that ended up just short and right.

He was two strokes behind Johnson on the 17th fairway when the weather horn blew for an hour-long storm delay.

Johnson came out of the delay and hit his tee shot on 16 into a greenside bunker. His second shot went well past the hole and made bogey to cut his lead to a stroke.

"I've had a few missed cuts, so to come back and finish a solo second is nice, but to be that close and perform and be right there, I'm just a little disappointed right now," Streelman said.

Johnson was at 19 under when his tee shot on the par-4

15th went left and came inches from going into the signature lake that surrounds the finishing holes. His first pitch didn't make it to the green, and he hit the second to 4 feet to save par.

"It was lucky, but a still had to made a good up-and-down to make par," he said.

Mackenzie Hughes, who shot a first-round 60, had a 67 to tie for third with 23-year-old Will Gordon at 17 under. Hughes made 48-foot birdie putt on 17, which he started well left of the hole and watched as turned right to the flag. He finished the round with a much straighter 43-foot birdie putt on 18.

Gordon, who had no status on

either the PGA Tour or the Korn Ferry Tour, had seven birdies in a 64. The finish was just enough to give him a special temporary card and unlimited exemptions for the rest of the season.

His lone bogey came on 17, and briefly dropped him to fourth place.

"I knew the higher the better, so I was watching the leaderboard coming in," he said.

Johnson started the day two strokes behind Brendon Todd, and took the lead after three straight birdies put him at 20 under after 10 holes.

Todd shot a 75 to tie for 11th at 13 under. He made a 7 on the par-4 12th.

Bryson DeChambeau shot a

68 to tie for sixth at 15 under.

Top-ranked Rory McIlroy tied for 11th at 13 under after a 67.

"There's been some really good stuff in there, but then just some really stupid mistakes," he said.

Phil Mickelson, playing his first tournament since turning 50, followed up his opening rounds of 64 and 63 with two 71s to finish at 11 under.

"I'm looking at this week as progress," he said. "Certainly the goal is to win golf tournaments, but keep in mind I've missed a bunch of cuts. I haven't played to the level I've wanted to, and this week I came in and had a lot of great finds. I hit a lot of good shots, hit a lot of good tee shots. My misses were much better."

Dodgers, Yankees co-World Series favorites



NEW YORK —

With Major League Baseball back, and it didn't take long for Las Vegas sportsbooks to follow.

The MGM Grand Sports Book has released futures for the World Series, division winners and individual team win totals in advance of a shortened 60-win season that will see overhauled schedules for every team.

Even though the shape of the season has changed, not much is different roster-wise for teams thanks to a transaction freeze that has been in place since March. The Los Angeles Dodgers still have Mookie Betts and a loaded roster. The New York Yankees still have Gerrit Cole and a similarly loaded roster. The Baltimore Orioles still have ... hopes for a high draft pick.

Unsurprisingly, the Dodgers and Yankees have the top World Series odds at +350 each (bet \$100 to receive \$350). That's what you get when you take two 100-win rosters and add some of the best players in baseball with Betts and Cole.

Both teams also have the best regular season win total over/under at 37.5 wins. Following them is the Houston Astros and Minnesota Twins, the other two teams to win 100 games last year, at 34.5 wins. MGM is a little more optimistic about the Astros' World Series chances than the Twins, though, with Houston at +800 and Minnesota at +1600. That'll happen when a team hasn't won a playoff series since 2002.

All the way in the rear are the Orioles and Detroit Tigers at +100000 odds each to win the World Series, and respective win totals of 20.5 and 21.5.

For division-winners, the Dodgers (-667 to win division), Yankees (-323), Twins (-159) and Astros (-182) are all strongly favored to repeat their 2019 division titles. The Atlanta Braves are still the favorite in the NL East at +180 but have the defending champion Washington Nationals right behind them at +240.

The NL Central remains an unholy mess, with the Chicago Cubs (+240), St. Louis Cardinals (+240), Milwaukee Brewers (+275) and Cincinnati Reds (+300) all within shouting distance of each other.

With only 60 games to play, this season figures to see some shocking results. A bad run of injuries could sink a contender, and a hot streak could land a middling team in the playoffs. Be ready to bet accordingly.



Season may continue even if teams drop out

In a bid to exhaust every potential scenario Major League Baseball could face this season, SportsNet New York

made an interesting discovery last weekend.

If an outbreak of COVID-19 cases forces one or more of MLB's 30 teams to drop out mid-season, the

league will not necessarily be required to suspend the season or shut it down.

According to a newly revealed passage in the agreement between MLB and the

players union, commissioner Rob Manfred will decide if and when it is appropriate to suspend or cancel an individual game or the entire season. His decision will be

AP
In this Aug. 25, 2019 file photo, New York Yankees' Mike Ford hits an RBI double thrown from Los Angeles Dodgers relief pitcher Pedro Baez as catcher Austin Barnes, right, and home plate umpire Bill Welke watch during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles.

based on several factors, including the "competitive integrity" of the game.

"The March 26 agreement is now updated to include this passage, which SNY has obtained

The Commissioner retains the right to suspend or cancel the 2020 championship season or postseason, or any games therein, in the event that (i) restrictions on travel throughout the United States are imposed; (ii) there is a material change in circumstances such that the Commissioner determines, after consultation with recognized medical experts and the Players Association, that it poses an unreasonable health and safety risk to players or staff to stage those games, even without fans in attendance; or (III) The number of players who are unavailable to perform services due to COVID-19 is so great that the competitive integrity of the season is undermined," the agreement stated.

The first two items in the above passage were agreed to in March. The third item covering positive tests and competitive integrity was added Tuesday.

Baked into the amended language is an acknowledgement that an outbreak within a team could decimate it or cause the cancellation of games. That would not automatically mean an end to the season itself.

The report does not clarify MLB's definition of "competitive integrity" or how many COVID-19 cases would be required for Manfred to consider suspending or cancelling operations. Nor does it explain how a team going on hiatus or dropping out would alter the schedule or standings.

The league is determined to play 60 games in 66 days, so there's literally no wiggle room to rework travel and reschedule a block of games that could be cancelled. Would teams just be rewarded wins for having the ability to show up? Would they finish with less games? None of that is made clear.

What is clear is that MLB league is hopeful this scenario will not occur. However, with COVID-19 cases spiking across the country and across the baseball landscape, no scenario, even the worst of the worst cases, should be reasonably ruled out. (AP/NBC)

Venus joins World TeamTennis; season starts in July

NEW YORK (AP)—Venus Williams has signed up to play World TeamTennis for the 15th time, the league announced Thursday.

She will be a member of the Washington Kastles, one of nine teams that will gather at a resort in West Virginia for a three-week season starting July 12. Matches normally are played at various sites around the country, but WTT decided to bring everyone to one location because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Williams, who turned 40 last week, announced in 2011 that she had been diagnosed with Sjogren's syndrome, a condition that can cause exhaustion and joint pain. Williams has since spoken about how she turned to a plant-based diet and learned other ways to get by.

The American is a seven-time Grand Slam singles champion, with five titles at Wimbledon and two at the U.S. Open. She also has paired up with her younger sister Serena to win 14 Grand Slam trophies in doubles.

Up to 500 spectators will be allowed to attend each match at a 2,500-seat outdoor court at The Greenbrier. A maxi-

mum of 250 people - 200 fans and 50 staffers—can be at any matches that will be moved to an indoor court if it rains.

All fans will be required to wear face masks and pass a temperature check.

Other players who have committed to participating include 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin, 2017 U.S. Open champion Sloane Stephens and twins Mike and Bob Bryan, who have won 16 Grand Slam doubles titles together.

WTT is increasing total prize money to \$5 million this year, \$1.5 million more than for its 2019 season.

All tennis events sanctioned by the ATP, WTA and International Tennis Federation have been suspended since March because of the COVID-19 pandemic and are on hold until a planned return in August.

But WTT is not affiliated with those tours—no ATP or WTA ranking points are awarded for matches—and does not need to abide by their decisions about when it is OK to compete.

Meanwhile, next year's

Wimbledon will not be protected by pandemic insurance, according to outgoing chief executive Richard Lewis.

The All England Club's imperturbable image has scarcely been dented by the cancellation of this year's tournament—which would have started on Monday—

thanks to the foresight of those who spent a seven-figure sum on an in-

surance package against communicable disease. This investment should also allow the Lawn Tennis Association—which received £52 million (\$64.3M) from the All England Club in its last published accounts—to get away without slashing budgets too alarmingly over the coming months.

But Lewis confirmed that the same trick could not be performed next summer.

"That's impossible in the current climate," he explained. "What I would say about the future though is that, when I first started in 2012, there were some signs that things were not insurable, because of communicable diseases that had taken place like SARS



Chandler latest player to opt out of NBA restart



NEW YORK— Brooklyn Nets forward Wilson Chandler has joined a growing list of NBA players that have opted out of the league's Disney World reboot.

The 33-year-old player reportedly informed the team of his decision, citing a desire to spend more time with his family, especially his three children and his grandmother who raised him as a primary reason.

"As difficult as it will be to not be with my teammates, the health and well-being of my family has to come first," Chandler told ESPN on Sunday afternoon. "Thank you to the Nets organization for understanding and supporting me in this decision, and I will be watching and rooting for our team in Orlando."

Chandler, who is playing his 12th season in the league, had started in the Nets' last three games before the league went on hiatus. He was averaging 5.9 points and 4.1 rebounds in 29.0 minutes per game this season, his first with the Nets after signing with the team last offseason.

Rodions Kurucs and Taurean Prince are likely to absorb some of Chandler's minutes. The Nets have since signed free agent Justin Anderson to fill Chandler's roster spot.

The Nets will enter Disney World with a playoff spot likely in hand. With eight remaining regular season games to play, the Nets currently hold the No. 7 seed in the Eastern Conference at 30-34 and are six games ahead of ninth



AP
In this Dec. 15, 2019 file photo, Brooklyn Nets forward Wilson Chandler, center, takes a shot against Philadelphia 76ers forward Tobias Harris, left, and Joel Embiid during the third quarter of an NBA game at Barclays Center in New York.

World employees taking care of them will not.

NBA players aren't required to attend the restart, but they will see their salaries reduced for the games they miss unless they are ruled to be at risk of severe illness from COVID-19. Faced with that choice, many healthy players could still end up picking family over money.

Meanwhile, the Los Angeles Clippers have signed free agent Joakim Noah to a new contract for the rest of the season, three months after he first signed a 10-day deal with the team.

The two-time All-Star averaged 7.1 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.1 assists in 42 games for Memphis last season. Noah originally signed with the Clippers on March 9, two days before the NBA put its season on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The 35-year-old center was the 2014 defensive player of the year. Noah provides the Clippers with playoff experience and additional depth at the position.

Noah's 12 years in the NBA also includes stints with Chicago and the New York Knicks.

place, the 24-40 Wizards.

Of course, not much is expected of the Nets in the playoffs with Kyrie Irving still out after undergoing season-ending shoulder surgery and all signs pointing to Kevin Durant not making a return from last season's Achilles tear. Pandemic shutdown or not, waiting to contend until the moment Durant and Irving could share the court was always the expectation.

Chandler joins a growing list of NBA players, mostly league veterans, who have declined to join their teams at Disney World next month. The reasons behind each decision vary heavily, but most of them are rooted in family.

Portland Trail Blazers forward Trevor Ariza committed to a one-month visitation window with his 12-year-old son. Washington Wizards forward Davis Bertans has a history of

ACL injuries and is about to hit what should be a lucrative free agency, while Los Angeles Lakers guard Avery Bradley said his 6-year-old son has a history of respiratory issues. Dallas Mavericks center Willie Cauley-Stein also opted out as his partner is expecting a newborn child in July.

Odds are those players and Chandler won't be the only players opting out over the

next few days. For many in the league, the possibility of playing at Disney World is fraught with decisions about safety for themselves and their families. Basketball isn't the only sport to be facing such decisions either.

With COVID-19 rates still surging in Florida, the NBA's "bubble" might not be as safe as previously thought. The NBA itself will be quarantining, but many of the Disney

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by 20 member-federations, several life members, and World Athletics Commission members. The group also discussed the OAA Council Election to be held in 2021 and has confirmed the chairpersons for the Oceania Area Commission.

Fiji's Joseph Rodan Jr., Australia's Matt Mahon, and New Zealand's Trevor Spittle and Dame Valerie Adams will head the Development Commission, Audit, Finance, and Risk Commission, Competition Commission, and Athletes Commission, respectively.

Adams was also named deputy chair to the Athletes Commission of the World

Athletics, while Australia's Benita Willis is a member of the group. David Grace, also from Australia, and Spittle are elected members of the Governance and Competition committees, respectively, while World Athletics vice president Geoff Gardner of the Norfolk Islands has been selected as chair of the Development Commission.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this 2018 file photo, the CNMI's Lia Rangamar, second right, and other participants in the Oceania Athletics Association IAAF Level II Throws Course listen to resource speaker Debbie Strange during one of their class sessions in New Zealand.

SABLAN

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relevant agencies in seeing these projects through," said Sablan.

FEMA, through its Public Assistance Program, allocated \$1,678,781.49 in federal funding to the Office of the Governor to repair the damage the Oleai Sports Complex sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu in 2018.

"We also will be working closely with our national sports federations and the COVID-19 Task Force on plans for 'opening up' the Oleai Sports Complex. While it is essential to the physical and mental well-being of residents and athletes to return to physical activity, we recognize that this return will need to be gradual. Additionally, we recognize that there will be variation in what sports and activities are allowed. We want to do everything possible to help our community resume their activities and our athletes return to their respective sports safely and responsibly," Sablan said.

Meanwhile, the NMSA board led by its president Jerry Tan welcomed Sablan to the



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The Oleai Sports Complex will get a needed facelift, as the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency awarded a \$1,678,781.49 in federal funding to the Office of the Governor to repair the damage the facility sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu.

organization.

"Carline Sablan's extensive experience in working with both the public and private sectors will definitely assist NMSA in the performance of our duties to the community, particularly our responsibility to take care of the heart of the sporting activities in the CNMI—the Oleai Sports Complex," Tan said.

"I know Carline and her efficiency in accomplishing required tasks on time," NMSA vice president Ramon

Tebuteb added.

NMSA board members Nick Gross and James Lee are aware of Sablan's several projects in the past years and commended her for getting the job done.

"She has a great resume and displays commendable skill sets that will certainly assist NMSA in fulfilling our vision/mission," Gross said.

"I have witnessed her in action on several projects and she has done a remarkable job," Lee added. **(PR)**



Patriots
sign Newton
to replace
Brady

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Dodgers,
Yankees co-
World Series
favorite

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Athletics explores online learning



OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

The CNMI's Traven Quitugua, center, competes in the 100m run in last year's Oceania Athletics Championships in Australia. Quitugua and other athletes in the region can still learn from their coaches amid the COVID-19 pandemic, as OAA aims to strengthen its online education.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The COVID-19 pandemic may have halted competitions sanctioned by the Oceania Athletic Association, but not the training and education of coaches and technical officials.

OAA president Robin Sapong, during the OAA Annual Congress held virtually last Saturday, said the association is capitalizing on this time-off to explore online learning.

"There is no doubt that COVID-19 has changed the way we operate, but OAA has now explored more online learn-

ing opportunities and will continue to grow this aspect of our educational opportunities in our region," said Sapong, who is also the general secretary of the Northern Marianas Athletics.

"We now can offer education to all sections of the Oceania Area via technology. Now is the time for us to in-

crease our capacity and find new ways of educating our coaches and technical officials without the necessity for large amounts of money to be spent on travel. Time is now on our side," he added.



When the pandemic struck in the first quarter of the year, OAA used the online platform to reach out to its member-federations and help them remain on track by providing tools/resources to both athletes and coaches/technical officials. OA Live, which is a question and answer program, was launched to provide insights on rules and regulations in the sport. Then

there's Tracks in the Sands, which is hosted by OAA competition manager Tom O'Shaughnessy and has ran its first two episodes with experts discussing "implementations" and "starts."

OAA has also joined World Athletics and the International Institute for Race Medicine in considering an online tool to conduct a risk assessment first before holding any event.

Meanwhile, OAA revisited its strategic plans for 2021-2024 and organization policies during the congress, which was attended

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OCEANIA ATHLETICS ASSOCIATION

Robin Sapong, seen here speaking during the 2019 Oceania Athletics Association Congress in Australia, is the OAA president and led the group's annual congress virtually last Saturday.

Sablan named NMSA executive director

Northern Marianas Sports Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Carline Sablan as its executive director.

Sablan, a former development analyst of the Commonwealth Development Authority and member of a local football club, will oversee the management, maintenance, and operations of the Oleai Sports Complex under the direction and supervision of the NMSA board.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to join NMSA under the supervision of and framework set by the NMSA board of directors. The association is poised to really develop its vision and build on

past accomplishments. I look forward to being a part of the effort to bring the association to the next level," Sablan said.

The NMSA executive director acknowledged the challenges that comes with her new post, especially at these trying times so she is requesting for the community's support as the association works with the all the stakeholders to push for the improvement of the Oleai Sports Complex and make its facilities safer and suitable for public use.

"We have a myriad of challenges. The Oleai Sports Complex is in dire need of repairs. Our facilities need to be in tip-top shape to give our

athletes proper training venues and help them prepare for on and off-island competitions," Sablan said.

The facilities at the Oleai Sports Complex are also used by other members of the community for recreation and health and wellness activities. Schools and other organizations, both from the public and private sectors, also utilize the sports complex for their events and NMSA is anticipating requests for usage will start coming in once things are back to normal and the COVID-19 pandemic is finally over.

Sablan added the recent grant that NMSA received

from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency, through the Office of the Governor, will definitely help the association work on the improvement projects at the Oleai Sports Complex and get its facilities ready for sports and community events.

"Our understanding is that funding has already been approved for the needed repairs and upgrades of our facilities. We commit to working with the Office of the Governor, the Mayor's Office, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, and all

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Northern Marianas Sports Association executive director Carline Sablan is looking forward to working with all the stakeholders for the improvement of the Oleai Sports Complex.